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A Special Report by Star Metro Media

metro

NEW HOMES
Calgary and area

Southwinds by Mattamy: A unique fresh approach to master-planned community design. CONTRIBUTED

A splash of village charm in a

MIDTOWN IN AIRDRIE

Features include a large pond, parks, large plaza

Kathy McCormick

The first two phases of Midtown in Airdrie are now complete. CONTRIBUTED

The 90-acre community of Midtown in Airdrie features a large pond surrounded by pathways and parks. CONTRIBUTED

It was close to 70 years ago that The City of Calgary was doing most of the land development — onerous not only to the municipality to keep up with the costs of infrastructure for a thriving community, but also hard for builders who didn't have enough lots to satisfy demand.

Thus, the first development agreement was reached allowing residential land developers, most of whom were builders, to develop lots for homes and build communities.

Not so much has changed since then. Residential land developers have created vibrant communities in and around Calgary with amenities, master-planned neighbourhoods that are sustainable and desirable places where families can live, work and play.

But with land costs escalating, more and more builders are putting on two hats these days, delving into both land development and home building.

One relative newcomer is Wenzel Developments, an offshoot of Shane Homes, one of the city's largest homebuilders.

"Wenzel Developments was created in 2011 in order to secure future land positions and manage existing land assets for the Shane Group of Companies," says its president Shane Wenzel. "The intention was not to bid on land projects against our developer partners that have been part of the success of Shane Homes, but to invest with them and where it makes sense, to do our own developments."

Midtown in Airdrie, now finished its first two phases, was the first development for the new entity. "The project was done jointly with Apex Land Development," says Brenden Montgomery, general manager of Wenzel Developments. "The 90-acre (36.4 hectare) community has a large pond surrounded by pathway and parks with a large plaza creating the focal point of the community."

Builders are Shane, Trico and Excel Homes — and a wide variety of housing styles are available from single-family homes with double front-drive garages, to street townhomes with double detached garages, laned duplexes and duplexes with front-drive garages.

> **Builders in Calgary are changing with the market and diversifying housing styles, price points and land positions.** Shane Wenzel

"The response we have received so far from new residents and visitors to the area, as well as social media comments, has been amazing," Montgomery says.

The community is located north of Yankee Valley Boulevard in Airdrie along 8 Street SW.

The builder/developer combination isn't new — but traditionally, it's been done by developers such as Brookfield and Qualico who have their own builder group. Mattamy Homes was one of the first to bring the builder concept of land development to the area, albeit in a form different than the traditional way to build.

And Wenzel sees this builder trend continuing.

"Builders in Calgary are changing with the market and diversifying housing styles, price points and land positions. As the availability of land within Calgary diminishes, it is important for all builders to have a long-term land strategy. Having this

growing urban community

The large plaza in Midtown in Airdrie creates the focal point of the community. CONTRIBUTED

A wide variety of housing styles are available in Midtown in Airdrie, including street townhomes with double-detached garages, and duplexes with front-drive garages. CONTRIBUTED

strategy allows builders to have a consistent and predictable supply of land for the homes they build."

For Wenzel Developments, this has worked well so far, he says. "The developers we work with are valued partners who have embraced our new strategy and have become part of it. We are developing our smaller land assets ourselves, while investing with our developer partners on larger land development projects.

"Wenzel Developments primary responsibility is to manage this strategy, look for future opportunities and determine the best course of action to move projects forward."

Next up for Wenzel Developments are two projects currently in the planning stages — one in Springbank Hill, the other part of the Glacier Ridge area structure plan.

For more information on Midtown Airdrie, visit the website at midtowninairdrie.com.

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Builders talk market conditions

Q&A

What's coming for spring and the rest of 2017

Kathy McCormick

Even in the winter, new communities are under construction. CONTRIBUTED

2017 has been a momentous year already and we're not even into the second quarter. Donald Trump's inauguration, the approval of Keystone XL pipeline, the carbon tax, trade relation, as stronger energy sector, and more have already affected markets worldwide.

There's no doubt that the economy affects the housing industry, whether for good or bad, and since we are heading into the busiest market for new home sales in the year, we talked to a selection of builders and residential land developers to see how the year has shaped up so far and what they are expecting this spring.

Questions and their responses are below.

Compared to last year — and to a more 'normal' year — how have the first two months of this year been for the housing industry in the city?

Trent Edwards, COO Alberta for Brookfield Residential: "I think most Alberta businesses are not expecting a return to the 'normal' of a few years ago — we are dealing with a new normal." That said, "so far, 2017 is generally looking a touch more positive than 2016 for our Alberta business. Traffic and sales have been positive at most price points. Overall, we expect our lot and home sales to be up about 10 per cent across Alberta."

Stephanie Myers, vice-president Jayman BUILT: "Consumer confidence is certainly higher. The launch of a couple of highly-anticipated new communities in north Calgary (Carrington and Livingston) is going to bring a flurry of activity to the market. The strength of the resale market should result in new listings and opportunities to move into something bigger, smaller or newer."

Shane Wenzel, president Shane Homes: "While 2016 was a year of slow recovery, 2017 appears to be more steady and positive."

Is this what you expected? Why or why not?

Alice Mateyko, president of Homes by Avi: "Yes, this is what we expected, based on the year-over-year sales and revenue of our industry. I don't believe we can go any lower in pricing and supply inventory. The only way to go is up, but very, very slowly."

Stephanie Myers, vice-president Jayman BUILT: "The confidence piece was coming through at the end of 2016 so there was some momentum carrying over into 2017. The volume of sales is higher than originally anticipated. Jayman is continuing to see a high concentration of first-time buyers and the trend in downsizing/right-sizing is also prevalent in the first two months."

Charron Ungar, president of Avi Urban: "Buyer confidence will return in earnest, but only based on the health of the energy sector. The stronger it gets, the more that confidence will transfer to housing — but that will take some time."

Has any good news surfaced that has or will impact housing?

Shane Wenzel, president of Shane Homes: "The consumer appears to be adjusting to a less robust pace in the Alberta economy and that has helped consumer confidence going forward. As long as interest rates remain stable there is no reason for people to not remain positive."

Trent Edwards, COO Alberta for Brookfield Residential: "Alberta unemployment is stabilizing and recent pipeline approvals are good things. We would hope to see the Alberta unemployment rate continue to trend downwards and a continued strengthening of the price of oil."

Charron Ungar, president of Avi Urban: "There is plenty of good news … The news however that I am looking for includes a cessation of layoffs in the oil patch and an absorption of standing inventory for both new and pre-existing housing product in the market."

What about any concerns?

Chris Elkey, senior director, Canada Lands Company (responsible for the development of Currie): "Pricing of new homes hasn't come down because of such things as labour and material costs, but new homebuyers are expecting price decreases such as that found in resale homes. That may mean buyers will hold off on buying new homes for now."

Shane Wenzel, president of Shane Homes: "A stronger Canadian dollar would help with the cost of materials, most of which are supplied from the U. S. And quite honestly, policy makers can take a break from increasing codes on new homes. As a suggestion, focus on a renovation tax credit to upgrade older homes' energy efficiency. That would fall in line better with reducing waste and emissions on Canadian homes."

Trent Edwards, COO Alberta, Brookfield Residential: "Legislative uncertainty and rising costs due to new taxes, new code, new policies and new regulations provide additional concern that we can be competitive with other markets that we compete with for talent — and there are concerns around maintaining affordability."

Any surprises?

Charron Ungar, president of Avi Urban: "Recent challenges didn't help our market, such as the western Canadian drywall tariffs and the changes to CMHC mortgage qualification. It is disheartening that in a country as vast and diverse as ours, we do not have more regional-based federal policy taking precedence over blanket policy attempting to correct market conditions present in Vancouver and Toronto. I would hope our federal government does its best to recognize the contribution Alberta provides to the rest of Canada and that policy affecting our market start reflecting that fact as we transition towards better market conditions."

Stephanie Myers, vice-president, Jayman BUILT: "Affordability continues to be a concern with changes to rates on high-ratio mortgages and qualifications for that buyer sect."

Trent Edwards, COO Alberta, Brookfield Residential: "One of the ways we can help insulate our cities from economic 'surprises' is …leadership from both the government and private industry. It will continue to be critical."

Do you think the worst is over, as many of the economists are saying?

Stephanie Myers, vice-president, Jayman BUILT: "The 'worst' is over, but there is also a 'new reality' that this industry — and this province — needs to adapt to."

Alice Mateyko, president of Homes by Avi: "The bottom is now past, but it will be a long, slow climb back to a strong economy with full employment."

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Upgrades to set your home apart

FEATURES

Update your kitchen, floors and bathroom to up value

Karen Durrie

Buying a brand new home is an exciting time for anyone.

You've seen the showhome, and it's staged so beautifully — usually showcasing the higher-end details and finishes the builder offers for that model.

Now it's time to make your home your own, and that's where the mind-boggling array of upgrade selections comes into play, prior to construction.

Of course, your budget will dictate your choices, but experts agree kitchens, bathrooms and flooring are the best bang for your buck to increase home value.

We talked to Kim Morton, manager of the Avi Definitions one-stop selection centre for Homes By Avi about upgrade choices and trends.

One of the most common upgrade people choose is appliances. Kim Morton of Avi Definitions says homeowners like the look of built in appliances. ISTOCK

What kinds of upgrades are usually available for a new build?

Customers will choose anything to do with the structure or model options and exteriors with the salesperson, then our one-stop shop handles the interiors, including appliances, cabinets, countertops, electrical, base-and-case finishing details, fireplace, flooring, backsplash, paint colour and all of the plumbing fixtures.

In terms of upgrades, what are the most common ones people choose?

One of the most common is appliances. People also like the look of built-in appliances, which would be about $8-10,000 for the starting package.

You can have a cooktop instead of a freestanding range, and a wall oven and microwave built into the cabinets.

Countertops are also common. Our starting point is granite or quartz, but there can be further style upgrades in other granites and quartzes with variation and movement in them.

People also change from laminate to quartz in bathrooms.

What about flooring upgrades?

Hardwood in wider width is a popular option. Most builders start about three inches, but there are (planks) five to seven inches or even wider.

You can go with larger floor tiles, or upgrade to natural stone.

What are some of the trends you're seeing in upgrades right now?

With cabinetry, one strong trend is to do a painted finish. You'll see a lot of kitchens painted white, and you're looking at about $2-$5,000 depending on the home size and number of cabinets. There is also a focus on functionality, so pot drawers instead of regular cabinets, a pullout bin for garbage. People are also putting what's almost a built-in kitchen in bonus rooms, so they're a great place for your teenager to hang out — they have a microwave for popcorn and a bar fridge.

How about lighting? What are the upgrades people might consider?

Pot lights are popular. They recess into the ceiling and give you a nice clean look. I'm also seeing a trend toward more feature-type fixtures, almost "restoration" type bulbs in wrought iron, oversized fixtures in dining areas or open-to-below spaces, and lighting in stacked cabinets.

What kinds of upgrades are available for bathrooms?

Many customers will add a handspray to the tub or kids' bath, which is great for cleaning, good for bathing the dog. We're seeing a strong trend toward oversized showers with body-spray options and steam showers to maximize ensuites.

Recently one of our partners, Moen, launched a new shower fixture that is WiFi and phone compatible, where your phone controls your shower.

Speaking of smart technology, what add-ons do you have there?

We're seeing a lot more smart home features, including front door lock systems that are phone compatible. You can text someone an access code if you have a tradesperson coming in for short-term access, monitor when your kids are coming and going, and tie everything into your security system with cameras.

What are the best upgrades for resale value?

People have an expectation with hardwood and tile. Laminate flooring has come a long way, and there is a luxury vinyl that is softer underfoot. You want to go with durable for resale value.

Quartz or granite is great for resale as well. It's all about finding that balance between personalizing it for yourself and wanting it to be appealing to others down the road.

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Couple skip the natural downsize

BUYER PROFILE

Daytona II has a relaxed open feel, creating a livable vibe

Miles Durrie

With their two sons grown up, the natural thing for Randy and Sheilah Berg to do would have been to downsize from their longtime family home in the southwest community of Shawnessy.

But all it took was a look at the Daytona II by Calbridge Homes in the WestCreek Developments community of Legacy, and the couple was hooked. At 2,152 square feet, the Daytona II is larger than their previous home, but its relaxed, open feel creates a livable vibe that the Bergs loved.

"We were planning to downsize, but we just really liked this house," Sheilah says. For Randy, a born-and-raised Calgarian who is the service manager at Brandt Tractor Ltd., a space to do mechanical work was important, too.

"The three-car garage was definitely attractive," he says.

The two-storey home boasts a huge L-shaped kitchen, which opens onto the main-floor living room and offers direct access to the house's rear deck. Upstairs, the Bergs chose a three-bedroom layout. Off the master bedroom lies the house's true gem: a spacious, spa-like bathroom suite with stone tile flooring that includes a soaker tub, a shower stall and a two-sink vanity.

"I absolutely love the master bedroom and bathroom," says Sheilah, who grew up in Calgary after her family moved from eastern Canada when she was 10.

The bathroom vanity and the kitchen feature matching quartz countertop material, lending to the home's cohesive feel.

Above that capacious front-drive garage sits another cool feature — a large sunken bonus room. The Bergs' home is located ideally for the view from this room, as its huge window looks out over green space and a park.

The home will be ready for the couple to move in at the end of March, and Sheilah says they've enjoyed the process of making design decisions during the construction process.

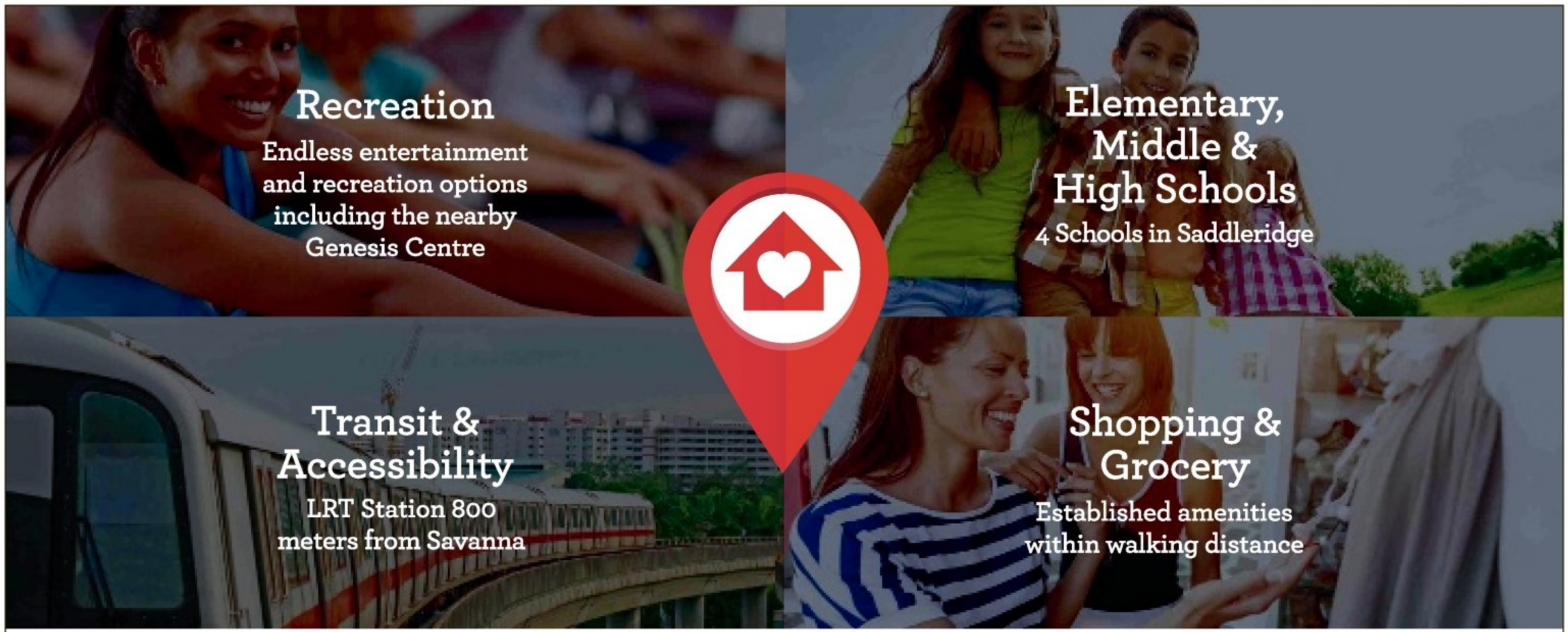
"This is the first house we've built, so it's been fun picking out all the materials," she says. "We stole a lot of ideas from the two Calbridge show homes on the street, and we really liked the way the Calbridge people explained everything to us."

Taking much of the stress out of moving is the fact that the Bergs' younger son, 23, is buying the Shawnessy home from his parents. "He got a really good deal — and a lot of furniture, too," Sheilah jokes.

The Legacy development, which was named Calgary Community of the Year at last April's SAM Awards, is located just east of Macleod Trail and south of 210th Avenue S.E. The Bergs have a long history in the south part of the city, so Legacy wasn't a hard sell.

"All our family is down in this area, and our niece had already moved to the community so we had seen what a pretty area it is," Sheilah says.

Randy and Sheilah Berg were planning on downsizing — until they saw the Daytona II by Calbridge Homes in the WestCreek Developments community of Legacy. CONTRIBUTED



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CHESTERMERE

Community retains relaxed atmosphere even with vast growth

Karen Durrie

Daphne Paddock remembers when the community of Chestermere, just a hop from Calgary's east side, was once a sleepy little lakeside town.

"When (husband) Hal and I grew up in Chestermere, there were only houses around the lake and golf course, with one bar/restaurant and a gas station. It has come so far since then," she says.

The couple, who moved to Calgary in their 20s, returned to Chestermere to purchase a home and raise a family — daughters Olivia, 3, and Georgia, 1.

Chestermere is no longer a sleepy lakeside town, though it has managed to retain that atmosphere despite unprecedented growth — the population grew by 34 per cent between 2011 and 2016, to 19,715, and it was designated a city in 2015.

New residential developments are constantly on the go, many taking advantage of the lakeside living environment afforded by Chestermere Lake, a 2.65 square km man-made reservoir built in the 1880s by Canadian Pacific Railway for irrigation, which has since become a recreational hub. The city surrounds the lake on three sides.

New residential developments take advantage of the lakeside living environment afforded by Chestermere Lake. CONTRIBUTED

A few years ago, the community redeveloped the sandy beach area, added a lakeside promenade, and more picnic and green spaces at Anniversary Park.

"I love the beach in the summer for the girls. I can't get over what a wonderful job they did with it. The sand is beautiful and there is tons of it. They built progression steps into the water, along the whole front of the beach, which is amazing for my toddler. She can go into the water and it's up to her waist, then the older kids go one step down and so on," she says.

The commute to her job in Calgary's Mission district is about 30 minutes, Paddock says, and Chestermere has exploded with so many new restaurants, retail and services that she doesn't find a need to go into Calgary for what Chestermere once lacked. The sports and recreation activities and classes for kids are myriad, she adds. But it's still the same old Chestermere in some ways.

"There is still so much beauty around Chestermere with the fields, the lake, and the canal pathway. Doesn't feel so much like living in the middle of a city even though we are now classified as one," she says.

> **"There is still so much beauty around Chestermere with the fields, the lake, and the canal pathway. Doesn't feel so much like living in the middle of a city...**
> Daphne Paddock

Newer communities and those still under development include The Shores, Westmere, Rainbow Falls and Kinniburgh.

Robert Vlach, area manager for Broadview Homes, one of the builders in Kinniburgh, says he remembers water skiing in Chestermere 10 years ago, and the area still has that same relaxed small-town feeling, but with big-city amenities.

Kinniburgh broke ground in 2014, and is a multi-phase development near the south end of the lake.

"It's like a weekend cottage retreat you wake up to everyday," Vlach says.

Broadview is just finishing building in phase I, with about seven lots left, three of which have spec homes under construction. The phases have been built somewhat out of order, Vlach says, and Broadview has already finished in phase IV with phase II next up. Buyer response has been excellent, he says.

"The big thing out here is you are getting more for your money. You can build a triple-car garage home in the low $600Ks, which would cost you about $900K in Calgary. It's enticing enough for people to go and buy."

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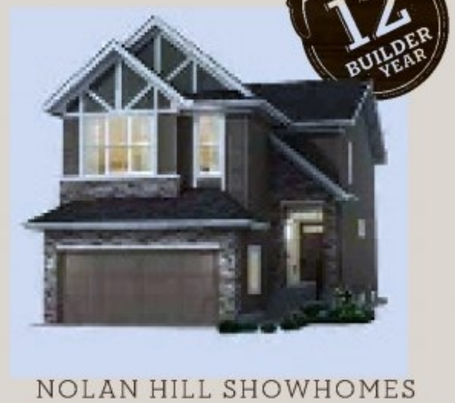

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BROOKFIELD

Offering affordability, amenities to new buyers

Kathy McCormick

Most of the players are gone, but the game board looks mighty similar to those seen in the past, so the new players have learned from their predecessors how to win, or at least how to place in today's economic uncertainty.

Brookfield Residential is one of Calgary's largest and most diverse residential development and homebuilding companies — and its strength lies in its roots as Carma Developers, founded in 1958.

The land development company was the brainchild of close to four dozen astute businessmen who bought land and started building communities.

Within two decades it had created more than 60 of Calgary's most admired communities today; expanded to the U.S.; and purchased NuWest Homes and the interests of a developer in Edmonton. Then the oil industry collapsed, the National Energy Program was implemented, and Carma went from 500 employees in 1983, to just 17 by 1985.

Persistence, prudent business management, belt-tightening practices — all were implemented — and Car-

tough housing market

ma not only survived, it once again became a driving force in the residential construction industry in Calgary and Edmonton, not only continuing to create master-planned communities, but building homes as well, both single-family and multi-family.

Carma merged with Brookfield Homes Corporation and Brookfield Residential was established in 2011, creating even more synergy and dynamic business operations. The latest merge was with the luxury Albi Homes, further diversifying its product offerings. And the company is now in several key U.S. destinations.

500

In 1983, Carma Developers, which was later acquired by Brookfield Homes Corp., employed 500 people. That number declined to just 17 by 1985 after the collapse of the oil industry.

With the current downturn due to the energy sector, Brookfield has leaned on its past — and focused on its customers to not only survive the tougher economy, but to be ready when the tide turns, says Brookfield COO Trent Edwards.

"We did better than projected last year," he says. "There is a great opportunity for a company like us in Calgary. We are very well positioned with our assets and our locations. We're extremely confident that we can provide affordability and great amenities that the new demographic of buyers is looking for.

"Yes, it's a tough market, but if you can deliver the right product, you can be successful. The next few years will be tough, but we are an efficient and effective company and that will help us succeed."

There is opportunity, agrees Allan Klassen, senior vice-president of housing for Brookfield. "We have some of the best locations — and if we differentiate ourselves in the market, the buyers are there."

Brookfield Auburn Bay beachclub. CONTRIBUTED

Brookfield Symons Gate showhomes. CONTIBUTED

BACKGROUND

Here are some of the communities Brookfield is current building:

- Southwest: Auburn Bay, Cranston's Riverstone, New Brighton and Seton
- Northwest: Evanston, Symons Gate
- Around Calgary: Fireside in Cochrane
- Inner City: Parkdale

Additionally, the developer is moving dirt on some new communities that will add even more lifestyle choices for Calgary and area residents.

- Livington in the northwest quadrant

The master-planned community is already underway with several other builders. It's north of Stoney Trail and west of Deerfoot Trail.

- Seton in the southeast quadrant.

Brookfield has already completed much of its commercial sector of Seton, with the new South Calgary hospital and surrounding retail and services. Now it moves onto the residential portion south of that next year with mixed-use development.

- Bearspaw (Rowan Park)

This new area below Lynx Ridge golf course and by the Bow River on 12 Mile Coulee Road NW will be developed in 2018.

- University District near the University of Calgary and the Alberta Children's Hospital northwest

The first venture in this coveted close-in city location will be this year — a 131-unit townhouse project.

- West Grove on the west side.

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Study shows school marks not matching with provincial exams

metroNEWS

Calgary pitches red tape cut for downtown

BUSINESS

'Enterprise District' would hit pause on permit processes

Brodie Thomas
Metro | Calgary

Don't expect a wild-west free-for-all, but Calgary's administration wants to press pause on some business permitting processes in order to breathe life into the struggling downtown.

A report going to a council committee on Wednesday will give an update on the possible creation of a City Centre Enterprise District.

Thom Mahler, manager of urban strategy with the city, said the initiative could remove much of the red tape around starting a business in a downtown area including the core, the beltline and 17 Avenue SW as far west as 14 Street.

The program could last two or three years.

Mahler gave the example of a retail business that wants to move into a space formerly occupied as a restaurant. Normally that would require a change of use permit, which would then require a development permit, and would open discussions on parking bylaws in that area.

He said sometimes after all that, a business owner finds out they can't put their business in that space, or needs to submit further studies.

Instead the city wants to suspend that process in the enterprise district in many cases.

"We're essentially saying (you could skip the process) if there's a vacant space, and the land use bylaw allows for that use," said Mahler.

Coun. Druh Farell's ward encompasses much of the downtown core. She said the idea has merit, but is not without risks.

She said this alone will not solve the downtown's problems, and it could hamper long-term goals.

"In an area where we're trying to encourage residential, there are certain uses that aren't compatible with our long-term objectives," she said.

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WikiLeaks publishes huge trove of what it says are secret CIA documents. **World**

Duke signs with new Knights

HOCKEY

Forward is the first member of Las Vegas NHL franchise

Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

Calgary's very own Duke has officially been knighted.

After signing a three-year entry-level contract Sunday, forward Reid Duke, 21, of Calgary is the first member of the NHL's newest team, the Las Vegas Golden Knights.

"You never can really prepare until it finally happens. It's really crazy – I've been on cloud nine for the last few days," Duke said in a phone interview from Brandon Manitoba, Tuesday, where he is currently playing his third season with the Western Hockey League's team, the Wheat Kings.

Duke has made a lot of sacrifices in pursuit of his dream. At 16 he was drafted to the Lethbridge Hurricanes.

Moving away from home and starting at a new high school was challenging, he said — but well worth it, adding that after returning to Western Canada High School in Calgary to graduate, he was then signed by the Brandon Wheat Kings.

"It's been amazing. We won a championship last year," he said. "I know so many guys now that I would never have met and my teammates and the people in this organization have been nothing but first class."

Interestingly, "first class" is exactly how Wheat King's head coach, David Anning describes the Duke, too.

"He's a very elite player with a very high skill level. He does a lot of things with the puck that not a lot of players are able to do," he said. "He's a great player offensively, with a great shot and he's somebody we've relied on heavily for point production."

Anning said this year Duke leads their team in scoring has had 30+ goals for back-to-back seasons.

"Offensively he does a lot of good things and he's been somebody who has improved with every season," he said.

This season Duke has scored 35 goals and made 32 assists in 54 games with the Wheat Kings.

In his WHL career he's registering a total of 112 goals and 135 assists for 247 points in 304 games.

The Minnesota Wild originally drafted Duke in the sixth round, 169th overall during the 2014 NHL draft.

Anning said Duke has always shown coaching staff that he wants to be a professional by simply acting that way.

"He's earned the opportunity. He wants to be a pro and he carries himself that way on and off the ice," he said.

Duke said signing his first NHL contract was made even more special for him as his mom was able to be there with him.

"My parents have been amazing, they're my biggest role models. As you get older you realize all the things they've done for you your whole life so it was nice to be able to share this special moment with my mom," he said.

Reid Duke is in his third season with the Brandon Wheat Kings. JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Reid Duke, right, signs his first NHL contract with the Las Vegas Golden Knights with LVGK general manager Kelly McCrimmon by his side. CONTRIBUTED

CRIME

Police charge mother with abandonment after baby found in bushes

Calgary police have laid child abandonment charges in relation to a baby that was found in some bushes early Tuesday morning.

Police were called to a home in the 2500 block of 16A Street NW around 2:30 a.m. after a woman was seen wandering around outside with an infant.

According to police, the woman was yelling and banging on the side and door of the home, although the person inside the house did not know who she was.

When officers arrived there was no sign of the infant. Police and EMS searched the area until they found a three-month-old boy in the bushes about 10 minutes later.

The baby was not dressed for the weather and was taken to hospital in serious condition. He has since been upgraded to stable condition.

The woman, believed to be the child's mother, is charged with one count each of child abandonment and failing to provide the necessaries of life.

No names will be released to protect the identity of the child. METRO

Calgary DIGEST

AIRDRIE

Insulin pump stolen

Airdrie RCMP need the public's help in identifying a suspect who may have taken a child's insulin pump.

The theft happened while the child was playing hockey at Airdrie's Ron Ebbesen Arena on East Lake Crescent NE on March 2. Police believe the theft happened between 6:20 and 6:40 p.m.

The suspect is described as a Caucasian male, slim to average build and approximately six feet tall. He was wearing glasses and had a brown goatee. METRO

DEERFOOT TRAIL

Single-vehicle crash

Calgary police are investigating a second collision this week involving an impaired driver.

A crash involving a single vehicle happened Monday night around 9:30 p.m., near the exit to Anderson Road and Bow Bottom Trail going south on Deerfoot Trail.

A 30-year-old man driving a 2006 Pontiac Pursuit attempted to leave the exit lanes to continue on the highway, but crossed a snow covered divider, causing the vehicle to lose control. METRO

FIRE

Neighbour saves family

An alert neighbour helped a family of six flee their northwest Calgary home after a fire early Tuesday morning.

Firefighters were called to a home in Panamount Close NW around 4 a.m. Tuesday.

Crews arrived to find a two-storey home with flames showing on the exterior, fire officials said.

Fire officials said a neighbour alerted the two adults and four children of the fire and they were all able to escape safely, with no injuries reported. METRO

City faces $100M in revenue shortfall

FINANCES

Concentrating on cutting spending hikes to zero per cent

Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

Jeff Fielding has worked two years to come up with the cost savings that have helped Calgary weather an economic storm. HELEN PIKE/ METRO

The city has always been concentrating on spending taxpayer dollars wisely, but never expecting the economy to turn so harshly — that's a message city manager Jeff Fielding wants Calgarians to hear loud and clear.

On Tuesday, he delivered a sheet to councillors breaking down the city's $325 million in cost reductions and savings, which they've diligently used to reinvest in tax relief, offsetting revenue shortfall and investing in infrastructure.

"We were increasing our costs by 4.5 to six per cent on an annual basis to respond to 40,000 people," said Fielding. He's referencing the city's 2015 influx of population. "But we don't have that growth now. We need to stop that train and back up. What we're really doing is slowing the increase in our spending. At some point in time, we need to level set that to a new level, and it's probably going to be closer to zero, than four."

And the city must restrain their spending if they want to weather the economic storm ahead — there's no telling for how long.

Mayor Naheed Nenshi said it's important for the city to continue to go through improvement work and also determine if there are adequate revenues to fund the services that are important.

"There will be difficult decisions for this council, we make difficult decisions every day," said Nenshi. His example: Calgary Transit's $17 million revenue shortfall. Does council cut back service, or does that create a "vicious circle" where fewer users take transit.

"I think that we have clearly shown our taxes in this city continue to be among the lowest in Canada," said Nenshi. "We run pretty leanly and efficiently, but we've still got to do a better job."

Fielding said there's at least $100 million in revenue shortfall, money they have to account for, lest they cut frontline services for Calgarians in attempts to perfectly balance the budget.

The city's dividends aren't what they were, the franchise fees the city enjoyed aren't coming back, and Fielding doesn't think the downtown's asset values have bottomed out yet.

But he said right now, the city's focus is cost, not revenue.

"If we don't see the recovery and the bounce back, a question (council) is going to have to address is going to be are service cuts at play. We're getting to the point where I don't have a lot of capacity, I've pretty much used all of my tricks from where I've been before. I'm running out of new ideas. We may have to fall back on some of the traditional things about cutting services."

Feilding said the city wants to keep Calgarians working, hence their infrastructure spending plans, but he underlines that keeping governmental costs down is crucial.

At the managerial level in 2016 and 2017 through cuts in pay, 0 per cent pay increases and more, the city scrounged together $35 million. And they're hoping as they go into 2018 to pen new labour agreements, unions will show the same restraint.

"At the end of the day we have a supportive workplace, we're not threatening with layoffs," Fielding said. "We think there's some solutions in there that will bring our costs in with what we can afford and if everybody's reasonable in those negotiations and discussions (in 2018) it's a great opportunity for us to work together as an organization."

POLICE

Watchdog questions letters

Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

Alberta's police watchdog has taken issue with the kinds of statements provided Calgary Police Service members who are under criminal investigation.

In a news release from Alberta Serious Incident Response Team (ASIRT) released Tuesday, the watchdog said following an investigation into a CPS member who lost a Colt C8 – A2 carbine assault rifle, ASIRT sent a letter to Calgary's chief of police about something called "a proffered or conditional statement from counsel for a subject officer."

"These are not, in fact, statements provided by the subject officer. They are letters authored by counsel for a subject officer that purport to provide a summary of what the subject officer's version of the events might be if he or she was to provide a statement or testify in court," said ASIRT.

"Effectively, it allows a subject officer to put forward a version of the events without being accountable for that version."

Supt. Steve Barlow of CPS said to be clear, CPS Professional Standards Section doesn't request proffered statements.

Barlow said the proffered statements are not normally received until after an investigation is complete.

ASIRT said proffered statements are "almost exclusively provided or accepted in criminal investigations into police conduct and have been a long-standing concern of ASIRT."

"The acceptance and consideration of these statements on behalf of police officers could be perceived as an unfair advantage in the criminal investigative process. The citizen that becomes the subject of a criminal investigation rarely receives the same benefit," they said.

TICKETS

Parking body not enforcing angle parking in cul-de-sacs

Brodie Thomas
Metro | Calgary

The Calgary Parking Authority has suspended enforcement of angle parking in cul-de-sacs for now, but don't expect to get your ticket rescinded.

Calgary resident Keith Hopkins was one of the many caught up when they unwittingly received tickets for angle parking in front of their homes, despite having done so for years.

He got his ticket in February 2016 and tried fighting it in court a few months later.

Unsurprisingly, he lost.

When Hopkins heard about another Calgary man who recently fought his ticket and won, he made some calls to the CPA.

"They told me, 'They're not going to rescind your ticket. Your ticket stands,'" said Hopkins.

Hopkins had read media reports about Martin Morett, who fought his ticket after Coun. Shane Keating pitched a solution to the angle parking problem.

With administration now working on that solution, Morett took his ticket before a judge, who agreed to let him off with a warning.

"My circumstances are different from most other circumstances," said Morett, who added that the judge made it clear the bylaw is still on the books.

However the Calgary Parking Authority confirmed to Metro news that it has temporarily suspended enforcing angle parking in cul-de-sacs while administration works on a solution.

That reassurance hasn't changed Kith Hopkins' mind for now. He parks in his laneway or parallel parks, even as his neighbours continue to angle park.

"I would just love to go back to angle parking if I could," he said.

Keith Hopkins was one of the first to speak out after getting a ticket for angle parking in his cul-de-sac. METRO FILE

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Grade inflation rampant at CBE schools: Advocacy group

EDUCATION

Great disparity between math marks in school and exams

Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

A Calgary-based, parent-run education advocacy group is calling foul on the Calgary Board of Education for what they allege to be "grade inflation" of students' math marks.

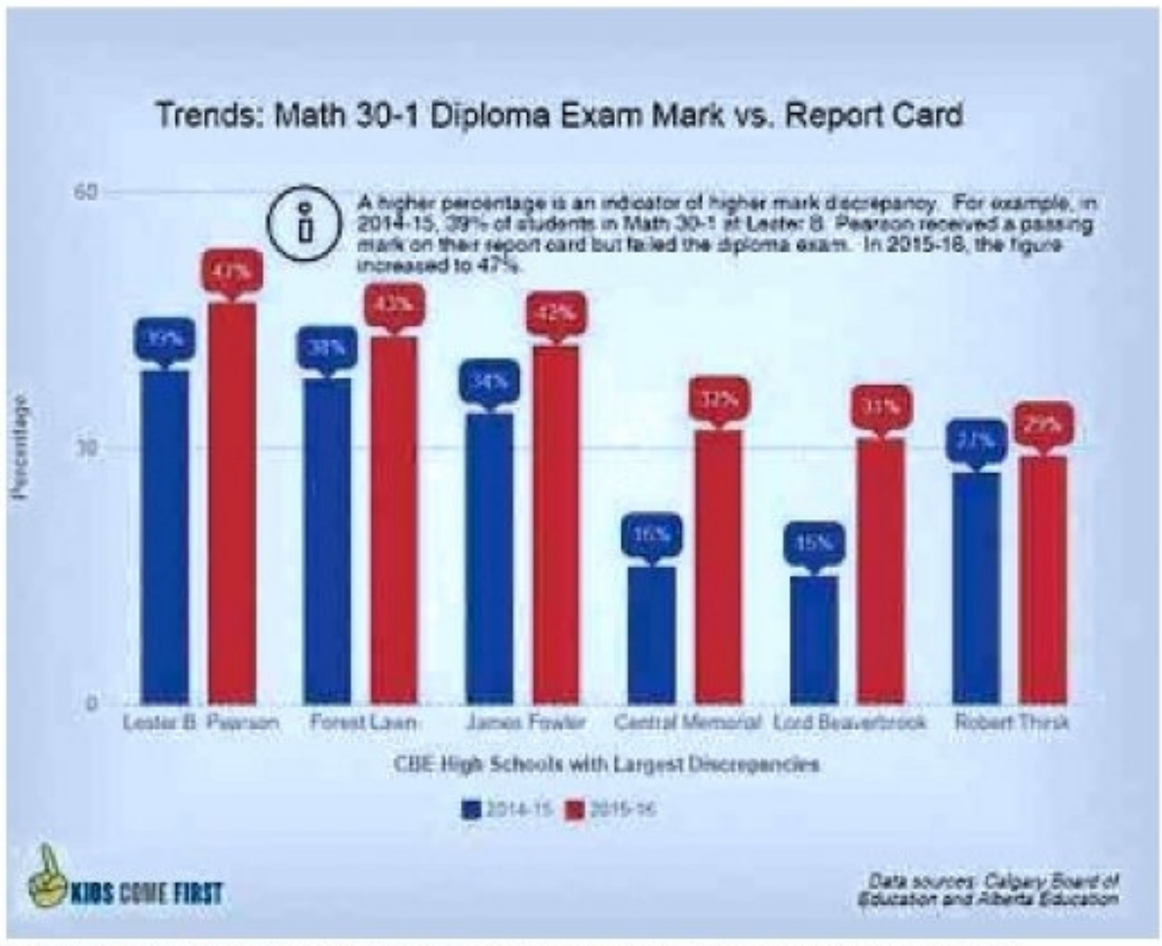
Lisa Davis, founder of education advocacy group, Kids Come First, said the CBE's published math marks show significant disparity between school marks and diploma or provincial achievement tests.

Davis said a parent from Lester B. Pearson brought the issue to the attention of Kids Come First after finding out that the majority of their child's Grade 12 class had "bombed the math diploma."

This prompted Kids Come First to analyze school marks against diploma or PAT exams across the CBE — where they found major disproportion between the school awarded grades and diploma or PAT exam grades.

"At Lester B. Pearson School last year, 47 per cent of students received a passing grade in Math 30-1 but failed the exam," said Davis. "This compares to 4 per cent at Henry Wisewood School."

Davis said this points to something Kids Come First has dubbed "the northeast disadvantage."



This graph created by Kids Come First indicates that, according to their analysis, mark discrepancy has become far worse when comparing the 2014-2015 school year to the 2015-2016 school year. COURTESY KIDS COME FIRST

28%

CBE Grade 6 math fail rate based on PAT exams in 2015-16.

"Starting in Grade 6 we see that 93 per cent of schools in the northeast in the CBE are below the provincial average — when you compare that to the Catholic board it's only 47 per cent," she said, adding that these children must attended their designated schools.

"We seem to have a particularly difficult time in the northeast, and when you look at those Grade 6 numbers it can't simply be explained away by demographic because the Catholic board is so much less," she said. "It's critical the grade inflation we see at some schools gets addressed."

No one from the CBE was available for an interview Tuesday, but they provided an emailed statement from their superintendent of learning, Jeannie Everett.

10%

CBE Grade 6 math fail rate based on school marks in 2015-16.

The statement pointed to the Alberta Education guidelines for interpreting the diploma exams which states that "some learning outcomes cannot be measured by timed, paper-and-pencil tests" and that "although differences can be expected, large differences between school-awarded marks and diploma examination results for groups of students should be investigated."

"The CBE reviews the data provided through provincial exams and through student report cards," she said. "As Alberta Education points out, it is not unusual to see discrepancies between the school awarded mark and the diploma exam mark. We monitor this carefully and investigate any significant discrepancies."

Davis said their analysis showed that in Grade 9, 100 per cent of CBE schools are below the provincial average and said "this weakness really manifests itself in Grade 12."

"The size of grade inflation means students will have unequal access to post-secondary programs and may struggle when they get there," she said.

Davis said that in 2013 leaked private emails showed 11 per cent cuts were made to CBE high schools, which she said resulted in higher core class sizes — some around 35- 40 students.

"When you have bigger class sizes teachers have less time to work individually with students, and there does seem to be a correlation between the cuts in funding and an increase in the grade inflation from schools," she said.

Alberta's minister of education David Eggen said his government takes a number of steps to ensure grade inflation doesn't happen, including tracking performance through "rigorous" diploma and achievement tests.

"These exams are meant to complement, not replace, day-to-day teacher observations and classroom assessment. We believe that teachers and local school boards are in the best position to assess students on a day-to-day basis," he said.

> **At Lester B. Pearson School last year, 47 per cent of students got a passing grade in Math 30-1 but failed the exam. This compares to 4 per cent at Henry Wisewood School.**
> Lisa Davis of Kids Come First

Eggen said his government is taking action on math because they know parents and students are worried.

"We need to build a better culture around math in our schools and need to make sure we are equipping our students with the math knowledge and skills they will need to be successful," he said.

Eggen said they're currently addressing gaps within math in their curriculum re-write, and will be reinstating the written portion of the math diploma in next year.

"We are also introducing a new math bursary program that will cover tuition for existing and pre-service teachers taking courses specifically on teaching math."

COURTS

Victims getting time to sue

Alberta is changing the rules to give victims of sexual and domestic violence more time to sue their abusers in civil court.

Justice Minister Kathleen Ganley introduced legislation Tuesday that will end the current two-year time limitation on filing lawsuits to recover lost wages and other expenses or for pain and suffering.

Instead there will be no time limit on filing a lawsuit, and the legislation will be retroactive.

"The decision to come forward is extremely personal and can be very difficult," Ganley said at a news conference at the Sexual Assault Centre of Edmonton prior to the introduction of Bill 2.

"Survivors of sexual and domestic violence should be empowered to come forward on their own terms.

"They should not be forced to come forward on the basis of a deadline imposed by the legal system."

The new rules will apply to sexual assault, sexual misconduct, as well as assault on children, dependents and partners. Sexual misconduct includes stalking or sending inappropriate text messages or photos.

The former two-year limitation normally begins when the assault occurs.

Debra Tomlinson, chief executive officer of the Association of Alberta Sexual Assault Services, said the civil action will a "help lift that veil of silence" on violence.

"It gives survivors the time they need to recover and heal from the effects of sexual assault trauma," said Tomlinson.

The civil process is independent of the judicial one. In a civil case, a judge rules on the balance of probabilities rather than on guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

Ganley said Alberta is the first jurisdiction to exempt sexual misconduct lawsuits from the time limit. Changes to the time limit on sexual assault will bring Alberta in line with most of the rest of Canada, she added.

Mary Jane James, executive director of the Sexual Assault Centre of Edmonton, said civil action is a vital option given the high standard set in the criminal system.

"Because the burden of proof is so high in the criminal justice system, a very small fraction of (assault) survivors will ever see the inside of a courtroom," said James.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Double-edged sword for arts

ECONOMIC DOWNTURN

Spaces free up, but tough decisions to make for some

Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

One of Calgary's public art installations. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

Calgary's burgeoning arts community faces two realities during the province's continued economic slump: opportunity and turmoil.

As the city's downtown vacancy helps soften prices, and move companies into the newer and more expensive A and B real-estate rungs, arts groups have the opportunity to make the leap into the C-listed properties that have been freed up.

For years, the city has been a tight market for artists. With inflated prices the downtown core remained a space for the big-wig oil and gas companies.

But anecdotally, Joni Carroll, arts spaces consultant with the Calgary Arts Development said they are hearing about a shift.

"People are finding more secure affordable space in slightly better buildings than they were in before," Carroll said.

For Andrea Llewellyn, who helped build the Voltage Creative Garage in Marda Loop, this shift is all too real, and she's trying to take advantage of it.

"We are finding prominent deserted, or derelict properties that are just barely being kept up by their owners," said Llewellyn "We are currently scouting several buildings, we have pulled property reports on properties we are interested in, but we haven't yet approached landlords as we are hoping for an introduction."

She said her group is trying to find the silver linings in the economy, and hope to help artists get their feet under them with the help of a willing landlord.

In their Marda Loop location where they've just celebrated a one-year anniversary, Llewellyn said they struck a deal with Strategic Group and pay a subsidized lease and cover utilities for the formerly abandoned building.

It's not all good news, for as many groups that see opportunity in the downturn, there are ones the tough times cut into.

As Metro has reported, especially in the city's theatre community, funding comes one-third from government grants, one-third from corporate sponsorships and one-third from the box office.

A similar reality has hit many of the city's not-for-profit arts groups who Carroll said now face budgetary troubles, and with less money coming from oil and gas donors, some groups are reluctant to make moves to downtown digs.

But last week's economic summit was encouraging. Carroll said the city is seeing that a bustling downtown goes hand in hand with a thriving art community. She said stakeholders and leaders all agreed that building a liveable and loveable downtown includes artistic space.

CORRECTIONS

Garland attacked at Edmonton prison

Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

A prisoner believed to be Calgary's convicted triple-murderer Douglas Garland was attacked at Edmonton Max prison on Monday.

Edmonton EMS confirmed they attended the prison around 9:30 p.m. Monday. They said he was transported in stable condition from the Edmonton Institution to an Edmonton-area hospital.

129

How many years Douglas Garland would have to live before becoming eligible for parole.

According to the Edmonton Police Service, the victim is a 57-year-old prisoner of notoriety.

Police said the details surrounding the alleged attack are currently under investigation by both the institution and police. No charges are pending at this point in the investigation.

Garland was attacked by four inmates at the Calgary Remand Centre on Feb. 18, the day after he was convicted of killing five-year-old Nathan O'Brien and his grandparents Alvin and Kathy Liknes in the summer of 2014.

Douglas Garland. CONTRIBUTED

Justice David Gates handed Garland the most severe prison term possible for his crimes—75 years without the possibility of parole. Garland would have to live to be 129 years old before becoming eligible for parole.

When is a crisis an emergency?

OPIOID CRISIS

No clear path after debate in legislature

Elizabeth Cameron
For Metro | Calgary

Alberta's politicians continue to debate the merits of declaring an all-out public-health state of emergency, yet there's no clear path to curbing the province's opioid crisis by doing so.

On Monday night, members of the Alberta legislature held an emergency debate on the opioid crisis in our province, after leaders of the opposition parties penned a joint statement demanding a public health emergency be declared to free up resources and coordinate a response from the multiple agencies and departments involved.

"It was very powerful with everyone in the legislature basically acknowledging that we have a crisis and we are not getting ahead of it ... but unfortunately the government wasn't prepared to go to the next step," said Dr. David Swann, leader of the Alberta Liberal Party.

The crisis could be stopped through co-ordinated efforts between police, the treatment of addicts and increased public education, according to Alberta Party leader Greg Clark.

"It's all siloed between different departments right now, and public-health emergency has practical benefits in putting all of that together," Clark said.

"Everyone's trying to do something, but it's all completely disconnected and disjointed."

While declaring a public-health emergency has not been ruled out, the province said, such a declaration wouldn't enable new resources or funding.

In fact, the province already has the authority to make the necessary administrative changes to fight the rise in opioid addictions, according to the office for Associate Minister of Health Brandy Payne.

The opposition leaders disagree.

"I think a public health emergency really does match what's happening on the streets of this province, and in the suburbs of this province, and in our high schools. This is a very widespread problem," Clark said.

"(Declaring it) would put one person in charge of the response and give them certain powers to compel resources to be utilized in a co-ordinated way."

That person would be Alberta's current Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) Dr. Karen Grimsrud. Should a declaration be made based on her advice, as outlined in the Public Health Act (PHA), her office would be in charge of co-ordinating the response.

Previously, Grimsrud has told Metro the PHA does not apply to the opioid crisis because the legislation was written for responses to communicable diseases, such as influenza.

Swann said that's not the point.

"It doesn't matter to us what you call it or under what act you call it," he said.

The Emergency Management Act (EMA) has been used to mobilize resources in Alberta before and has its own definition of what constitutes an emergency.

The director of the Centre for Community Disaster Research at Mount Royal University, Dr. Timothy Haney, said the EMA was written for sudden, unexpected, geographically constrained events such as a flood, plane crash or wildfire.

Declaring something an emergency under the EMA would typically open up the pipeline for additional resources, but it would be emergency management associations to lead the response, according to the professor.

"Could it be covered by the scope of the EMA? Sure, you could make it fit — but my concern would be that then you're shifting responsibility for it to emergency management organizations that best handle events with a really defined beginning and end, that affect one place geographically," Haney said.

As he sees it, responsibility to take action on this crisis is being passed back and forth.

"In the end, it just ends up being no one's responsibility," Haney said.

Clark said he is confident that the PHA's definition of a public-health emergency could, and should, include the opioid crisis.

"I see no reason for them not to declare a public health emergency and to renew that every 30 days as long as there's a crisis," he said.

As outlined in the PHA, declaring a public health emergency would give the CMOH and minister of health a range of new powers, including the authority to enter private residences or businesses without a warrant and conscript Albertans.

Clark said concern about those additional powers has been used by the government as an argument against declaring a public-health emergency.

"Perhaps there is some amendment that could reduce concerns about things like giving the power of arrest ... but I don't think that's the problem, frankly. I think the PHA is probably sufficient as it is now. It certainly shouldn't be an excuse not to do it," Clark said.

Clark argued that, ultimately, the public needs to know that the government means business.

"(Declaring a public-health emergency) has symbolic benefits in letting Albertans know we're taking this seriously," he said.

"A public health emergency really does match what's happening on the streets of this province, and in the suburbs of this province, and in our high schools. This is a very widespread problem," said Greg Clark, leader of the Alberta Party. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

DEFINING AN EMERGENCY

Should the opioid crisis be dealt with through the Public Health Act? Could it be covered by the Emergency Management Act? Here are the definitions of 'emergency' for both:

Public Health Emergency, as defined in the Public Health Act: An occurrence or threat of an illness, health condition, an epidemic or pandemic disease, a novel or highly infectious agent or biological toxin, or the presence of a chemical agent or radioactive material. There is no definition for the sole 'emergency' in the PHA.

Emergency, as defined in the Emergency Management Act: An event that requires prompt co-ordination of action or special regulation of persons or property to protect the safety, health or welfare of people or to limit damage to property.

THE ACT

Sections of the Public Health Act that Greg Clark says could apply to the opioid crisis in Alberta:

52.1(1) "Where, on the advice of the Chief Medical Officer, the Lieutenant Governor in Council is satisfied that:
(b) prompt co-ordination of action or special regulation of persons or property is required in order to protect the public health, the Lieutenant Governor in Council may make an order declaring a state of public health emergency relating to all or any part of Alberta."

52.6(1) "... during the state of public health emergency the Minister or the regional health authority may do any or all of the following for the purpose of preventing, combating or alleviating the effects of the public health emergency and protecting the public health:
(e) provide for the distribution of essential health and medical supplies and provide, maintain and co-ordinate the delivery of health services."

343

In Alberta, **343 people died** from apparent fentanyl overdoses last year.

SOURCE: ALBERTA HEALTH

25 to 39

Men ages 25 to 39 are at the **greatest risk** of overdosing on fentanyl.

SOURCE: ALBERTA HEALTH

WILDROSE ON CAMPUS

University group's VP quits

Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

After aligning themselves with the men's rights movement, and emailing their membership an invite inciting that everyone knows "feminism is cancer" Wildrose on Campus is in shambles.

The email was a promotion for the group's Wednesday screening of "The Red Pill," a documentary that studies the men's right movement through the eyes of a feminist, who soon begins to re-evaluate her preconceived notions of the movement. They aren't co-hosting the event anymore, but the film will be screened at the U of C campus.

A screen capture of the email circulated on Monday evening, gaining steam as leaders, even Brian Jean, Wildrose party leader, called the group out.

They fired their communications director immediately, and a day later there's more.

Keean Bexte, former vice-president external of the campus group, resigned earlier Tuesday. He was at the helm with

> **I cannot stand behind the comments that were made.**
> Keean Bexte

numerous executives and 140 members.

"I cannot stand behind the comments that were made by the Wildrose on Campus director of communications yesterday, with a few other members of the executive," he said. "I personally recommend others do the same."

He said it makes him sad the club has gone through this, having worked closely with the Wild Rose and for youth over the years.

"It's time for a refresh of conservatism in Alberta," said Bexte . "I think this reflects on the Wild Rose party."

The Wildrose on Campus group came out in support of Jason Kenney last month after a survey of their members.

But after the incident, Jeremy Nixon, Wildrose Executive Director sent the executive an email, and the cold shoulder.

"The Wildrose on Campus at the University of Calgary is not a Wildrose Recognized Association, which comes with various benefits, including use of the Party's name, logo and branding, "read the email provided to Metro.

Political misconceptions

GOVERNMENT

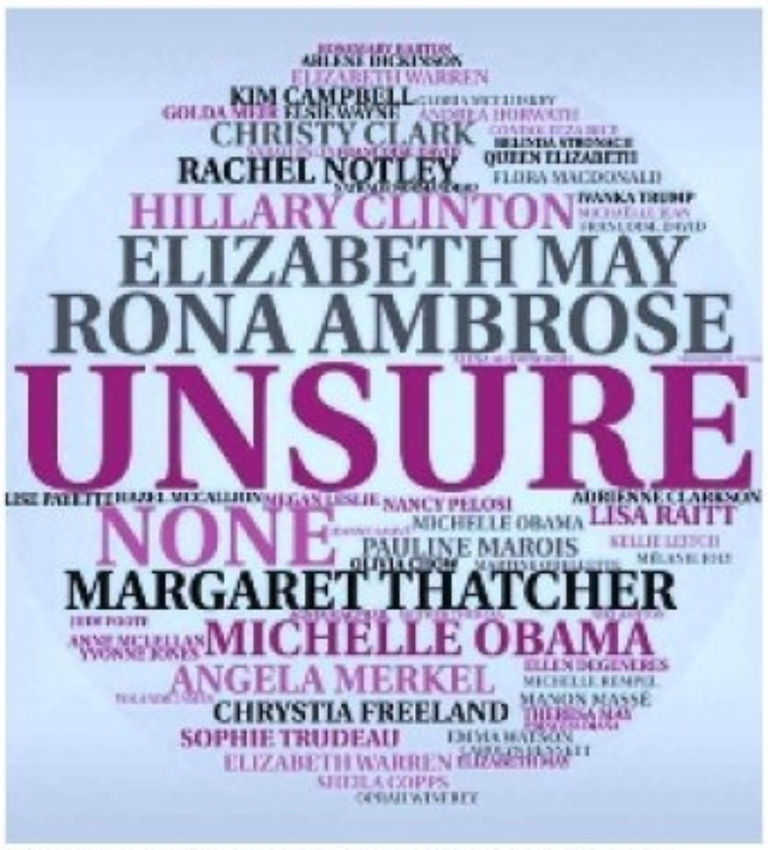
Representation of women in politics splits Canada: Survey

Elizabeth Cameron
For Metro | Calgary

The majority of Canadians think there are "too many" or "the right number" of women in our political landscape, according to a new survey released on Monday.

Given that women occupy only 28 per cent of the seats in parliament, the fact that 58 per cent of the people in this country think we're doing just fine is concerning to Equal Voice, the multi-partisan organization who commissioned the survey.

"Clearly there's still work to do educating Canadians on the issue of underrepresentation of women in Parliament (and) other levels of government," said Nancy Peckford, executive director of Equal Voice.



Respondents were asked to name a female role model in politics for young women to aspire to. The word clouds shows the most commonly mentioned individuals. CONTRIBUTED

Thirty-two per cent of women who responded said political parties don't recruit women to run in electoral districts with a chance of winning, versus 24 per cent of men.

> The biggest obstacle women identify to running for elected office is that parties don't recruit enough women. Nancy Peckford

"The biggest obstacle women identify to running for elected office is that parties don't recruit enough women for winnable ridings," Peckford said.

"Political parties, this is your call to action."

Esmahan Razavi is running for Calgary City Council and said the survey's findings only add fuel to her fire.

"I think it's motivating when you see things like this, because you realize there's still so much more work to be done," said Razavi, who is currently on the campaign trail in Ward 2.

She said Calgary's political landscape needs more women to get involved.

"I think the numbers speak for themselves, we only have two women councillors out of 15 councillor seats, if you include the mayor," Razavi said, pointing out only nine women ran for city council in the most recent election.

According to the survey, only 28 per cent of city councillors are women in Canada.

"What's concerning to me is that women aren't putting their names on the ballot — ultimately it's up to the voters to choose who they want to represent them — but if women don't run, they won't win," she said.

28%

Women occupy only 28 per cent of the seats in parliament.

ONOWAY

Pink water flows from town's taps

Residents in a small town northwest of Edmonton say bright pink water coming out of their taps was a bit of a shock.

Vicki Veldhuyzen Van Zanten of Onoway says she got a call from a neighbour asking if her water was pink.

It wasn't, but a short time later her daughter called her from the bathroom to see purple water coming out of the taps.

It later turned a bright pink, and Veldhuyzen Van Zanten says she posted on a town Facebook page and found hundreds of others were experiencing the same thing.

Tap water in Onoway, Alta., near Edmonton, turned hot pink on Monday. FACEBOOK

Onoway Mayor Dale Krasnow posted a message Tuesday on the website saying the public is safe and was not at any risk.

He says the town was doing its weekly wash of filters at the water treatment plant using potassium permanganate, which turns water pink when used in large quantities.

Krasnow says it appears a valve may have stuck, allowing the compound to get into the sump reservoir and then into the town's water distribution system.

The town has drained its water reservoir and is flushing the distribution system, he said Tuesday.

"Could the town have done a better job of communicating what was going on yesterday to our community? Absolutely, without a doubt," Krasnow said in the post.

"And we do apologize for that. This is a situation we can certainly learn from and develop a strategy for better response and communication should we ever face the same or similar situation in the future."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Friday, March 10 | 9 am – 4 pm
(MacPhail School of Energy programs and School of Manufacturing and Automation programs)

Saturday, March 11 | 10 am – 2 pm
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SAIT
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Taxi verdict appeal is 'a big relief'

HALIFAX

Woman at the centre joins in rally as Crown prepares move

Haley Ryan
Metro | Halifax

As hundreds of people gathered in Halifax to raise their voices in protest against a judge's recent sexual-assault acquittal, the woman at the centre of the case stood among them as another face in the crowd.

The passenger in the case around taxi driver Bassam Al-Rawi said she originally didn't want to attend the rally against Judge Gregory Lenehan's ruling, but on Tuesday she saw the Crown would be appealing the case and began "feeling the excitement around the city."

"I didn't talk to anybody, I just kind of watched," she said in a phone interview, adding with a laugh she was frozen after standing in the cold, "but it was worth it."

The woman, whose identity is protected by a publication ban, said she had mixed feelings on the Crown's appeal, which includes six specific examples where they say Lenehan erred in his decision.

"It was a big relief, with just an undertone of dread that it might end up leading to a retrial. But I mean all in all, the good outweighs the bad there," she said.

The Court of Appeal still must decide whether a retrial could happen, and while the woman said she knows it will likely be a long time before she'd possibly testify, she's prepared for much more public attention.

In a way, the woman said the publicity could make it easier because the first time around only reporters and Al-Rawi's supporters were there, so average citizens crammed into the courtroom "would honestly make a difference."

"(There's) something that's gratifying about people who don't even know you coming out to support," she said.

"That's been really cool."

People turned out in the hundreds Tuesday to protest last week's ruling by Judge Gregory Lenehan in Halifax on Tuesday afternoon. JEFF HARPER/METRO

ERROR OF LAW

The statement said Judge Lenehan erred in law by:

- Concluding the Crown had offered no evidence of lack of consent from the complainant
- Engaging in speculation about consent rather than drawing inferences from the facts proven in the evidence
- Failing to give proper legal effect to the facts
- Offering an erroneous interpretation and application of the test for capacity to consent
- Failing to direct himself on the provisions of Section 273.1 of the Criminal Code, which deals with aggravated sexual assault
- Failing to determine whether the accused had taken all reasonable steps to ascertain that the complainant was consenting

Judge Gregory Lenehan COURTESY CBC

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Border crackdown worries advocates

IMMIGRATION

1,700 claims at 'irregular' crossings by March 2017

On the eve of the U.S. homeland security secretary's visit to Canada, refugee advocates worry Ottawa could ask the Americans to beef up border enforcement to curb the flow of asylum-seekers coming into the country.

The surge of illegal crossings in recent months is expected to be a key issue on the agenda between Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale and U.S. Secretary John Kelly.

"They have done it in the past and started arresting people coming up at the border. Canadian officials can ask the Americans to boost enforcement," said Janet Dench of the Canadian Council for Refugees. "It would be really disturbing if Canada is going to push the U.S. to do that."

The Department of Homeland Security has yet to officially announce Kelly's trip, but Canadian cabinet minister Marc Garneau has told the media it could be as early as Friday. The American embassy in Ottawa would not confirm the meeting.

In the first two months of 2017, some 1,700 refugee claims were filed at the land border across the country, including asylum-seekers who entered outside of an official port of entry, which officials call "irregular" crossings, and those who crossed legally at a border enforcement station.

Quebec, which has seen the highest number of irregular crossings across Canada so far this year, has already received 1,087 land-border claims. That's 43 per cent of the total for all of 2016.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

An RCMP officer warns a family they will be arrested if they cross into Canada from Champlain, N.Y., last month. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

PRIVACY

Parliament to vote on genetic testing bill

After a flurry of intense lobbying from insurance companies, health charities, a handful of provinces and the justice minister herself, the fate of a controversial genetic testing bill is now in the hands of Parliament.

Liberal MP Rob Oliphant has been shepherding the proposed Genetic Non-Discrimination Act, also known as Bill S-201, through the House of Commons, where it is back up for debate and could come to a final vote Wednesday.

"I have been absolutely assured that it is a free vote," Oliphant said Monday.

The legislation would, among other things, make it illegal to require someone to undergo or disclose the results of genetic testing as a condition of signing or continuing an insurance policy or any other good, service, contract or agreement.

The Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association warns of higher costs and reduced coverage if passed. The group has registered to lobby the federal government on the bill.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

150 WAYS of looking at Canada

POSTCARD NO. 36

CYPRESS MOUNTAIN, VANCOUVER, B.C.

HERE IS A PICTURE OF ONE OF OUR FAVORITE SPOTS: CYPRESS MOUNTAIN IN WEST VANCOUVER. WE'RE VERY LUCKY TO HAVE SUCH A FUN MOUNTAIN, IN SUMMER AND WINTER, SO CLOSE. WITH JUST A SHORT DRIVE, YOU CAN HIKE INTO BEAUTIFUL ALPINE TERRAIN, SWIM IN A BRISK MOUNTAIN LAKE, FEED THE WHISKEY JACKS, OR IN THIS CASE, DO SOME AWESOME DOWNHILL SKIING. **BILL NEWMAN**

SEND US YOUR POSTCARD

Each day until July 1, Metro will feature one reader's postcard in our editions across the country, on Metronews.ca and our 150postcards Instagram page. Get involved by sending us a photo of your favourite place in Canada along with 25 to 50 words about why that place is special to you. Email us at **scene@metronews.ca** or post to Instagram or Twitter with the hashtag **#150postcards.**

‘Forces of hate have been unleashed’

ANTI-SEMITISM

Wave of bomb threats against Jewish centres hit U.S., Canada

Jewish community centres in Toronto and London, Ont., were among several across North America that received bomb threats on Tuesday.

Police say the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre in Toronto was evacuated out of “an abundance of caution” in light of threats made in New York, Oregon, Wisconsin, Illinois, Florida, Maryland.

Toronto Mayor John Tory visited the Jewish community centre targeted by the threat, calling the incident “very traumatizing,” and New York Mayor Bill de Blasio was at a Jewish community centre to denounce previous threats when he learned of the new ones.

“This is a moment in time, in history, where forces of hate have been unleashed,” de Blasio said. “It is exceedingly unsettling.”

Federal officials have been investigating more than 120 threats against Jewish organizations in three dozen states since Jan. 9 and a rash of vandalism at Jewish cemeteries. Over the course of Monday evening and Tuesday, there were eight emailed or phoned-in bomb threats in six states plus Ontario, the JCC Association of North America said.

Also Tuesday, two suburban Jewish community centres in upstate New York were shut down when someone phoned in bomb threats, authorities said. The Jewish Community Center in the Milwaukee suburb of Whitefish Bay was closed for almost two hours. A Jewish community centre in Portland, Oregon, received a bomb threat, too.

Toronto police and firefighters direct pedestrians away while a suspicious incident at the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre was under investigation on Tuesday. CITY CENTRE MIRROR/METROLAND MEDIA

In Providence, Rhode Island, an administrator at the Jewish Community Day School, attached to a synagogue, received a threat Tuesday morning alleging there was a shooter with an assault rifle on the roof of the building, police said. Police and a K-9 team swept the building; no one was found.

> **It is exceedingly unsettling.**
> Bill de Blasio

Chicago Jewish Day School on the city’s north side was evacuated for a few hours.

In New York, Chief of Detectives Robert Boyce said there were five threats made, including to the New York-based Anti-Defamation League, which also received threats to its offices in Atlanta, Boston and Washington, D.C. The ADL said threats were also made in Florida and Maryland.

White House spokesman Sean Spicer said he shared President Donald Trump’s hope that the threats subside.

“We denounce these latest anti-Semitic and hateful threats in the strongest terms,” he said. “It is incredibly saddening that I have to continue to share these disturbing reports with you.” THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. Senate calling on Trump to take action

The entire U.S. Senate is calling on the Trump administration to take more aggressive steps to counter the growing number of anonymous bomb threats against Jewish organizations and institutions across the country.

All 100 senators say in a letter sent Tuesday that the incidents are becoming more frequent and failure to take swift action places innocent people at risk. Targets of the threats include synagogues, Jewish day schools and community centres.

The letter is addressed to Attorney General Jeff Sessions, FBI Director James Comey and Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly.

The senators say these “cowardly acts aim to create an atmosphere of fear.” They say at least 98 incidents against community centres and schools in 33 states have been reported in the first two months of 2017 alone. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Official says Trump tweets taken too seriously

The top Republican on the House intelligence committee said he has not seen any evidence to back President Donald Trump’s claim that the Obama administration wiretapped him during the 2016 campaign and suggested the news media were taking the president’s weekend tweets too literally.

“The president is a neophyte to politics — he’s been doing this a little over a year,” Rep. Devin Nunes told reporters Tuesday. “I think a lot of the things he says, I think you guys sometimes take literally.”

On Saturday, Trump tweeted: “Is it legal for a sitting President to be ‘wire tapping’ a race for president prior to an election? Turned down by court earlier. A NEW LOW!” He followed up with: “How low has President Obama gone to tapp my phones during the very sacred election process. This is Nixon/Watergate. Bad (or sick) guy!”

Top former Obama administration officials have refuted Trump’s claims. Trump asked Nunes’ committee and the other congressional committees investigating Russia’s interference in the 2016 election to look into this matter.

Nunes, who was a member of Trump’s transition team, said whether the Obama administration had secret warrants to listen to Trump or his associates during the campaign would have been part of his committee’s investigation regardless.

Nunes also said the first public hearing of its investigation would be held March 20. And the initial invite list includes the directors of the FBI and National Security Agency as well as former top Obama administration intelligence officials and two cyber security experts. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

China angered by American, South Korean missile defence

U.S. missile launchers and other equipment needed to set up a controversial missile defence system have arrived in South Korea, the U.S. and South Korean militaries said Tuesday, a day after North Korea test-fired four ballistic missiles into the ocean near Japan.

The plans to deploy the Terminal High-Altitude Area Defence system, or THAAD, within this year have angered not only North Korea, but also China and Russia, which see the system’s powerful radars as a security threat.

China responded quickly, saying it will take “necessary measures” to protect itself and warning that the U.S. and South Korea should be prepared to bear the consequences. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WikiLeaks reveals CIA 'hacking' files

SURVEILLANCE

Documents say spies could access Android, Apple devices

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange addresses media in London in 2016. Experts who've started to sift through the thousands of documents purportedly taken from the CIA's Centre for Cyber Intelligence and released by WikiLeaks says the material said it appeared legitimate — and that the release was almost certain to shake the CIA. BEN STANSALL/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

WikiLeaks published thousands of documents Tuesday described as secret files about CIA hacking tools the government employs to break into users' computers, mobile phones and even smart TVs from companies like Apple, Google, Microsoft and Samsung.

The documents describe clandestine methods for bypassing or defeating encryption, antivirus tools and other protective security features intended to keep the private information of citizens and corporations safe from prying eyes. U.S. government employees, including President Donald Trump, use many of the same products and Internet services purportedly compromised by the tools.

The documents describe CIA efforts — co-operating with friendly foreign governments and the U.S. National Security Agency — to subvert the world's most popular technology platforms, including Apple's iPhones and iPads, Google's Android phones and the Microsoft Windows operating system for desktop computers and laptops.

The documents also include discussions about compromising some internet-connected televisions to turn them into listening posts. One document discusses hacking vehicle systems, indicating the CIA's interest in hacking modern cars with sophisticated onboard computers.

WikiLeaks has a long track record of releasing top secret government documents, and experts who sifted through the material said it appeared legitimate.

The chairman of the House intelligence committee, Rep. Devin Nunes, R-Calif., said he was very concerned about the release and had asked the intelligence community for more information about it.

Former CIA Director Mike Hayden told MSNBC he had undertaken only a cursory review of the documents, but that if they were what they were purported to be, it would amount to a "very extensive file of the tactics, techniques, procedures, targets and other political rules" under which the CIA hacks targets. "If it is that, it would be very, very damaging," he said.

Jonathan Liu, a spokesman for the CIA, said: "We do not comment on the authenticity or content of purported intelligence documents." White House spokesman Sean Spicer also declined comment.

Missing from WikiLeaks' trove are the actual hacking tools themselves, some of which were developed by government hackers. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN CANADA

The federal government should be concerned about the WikiLeaks CIA data breach, says a former national security analyst.

Stephanie Carvin of the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs at Carleton University says Canadian material risks being exposed, since Canada and the U.S. are members of the five-country group of intelligence-sharing countries known as the "Five Eyes." THE CANADIAN PRESS

MARINE LIFE ELUSIVE BEAKED WHALE SURFACES IN THE AZORES A rarely spotted whale has been caught on underwater video for the first time ever. The group of True's beaked whales was spotted by a group of German teachers who were on an Azores expedition with schoolchildren. Once the whales were seen on the surface, a member of the group swiftly slipped beneath the surface with a GoPro camera in hand. TEXT: ANDREW FIFIELD/METRO; PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

VIDEO ON THE METRO APP

U.S. wildfires kill at least 6

EMERGENCY

Weather conditions may ease fight

Firefighters from Kansas and Oklahoma battle a wildfire near Protection, Kan., Monday. BO RADER/THE WICHITA EAGLE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Crews grappling with vexing wildfires that have charred hundreds of square kilometres of land in four U.S. states and killed six people soon may get a bit of a break: Winds are forecast to ease from the gusts that whipped the flames.

Bill Bunting, forecast operations chief for the Oklahoma-based Storm Prediction Center, said Wednesday the powerful wind gusts that fanned the wildfires in Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma and Texas should diminish to about 15 to 30 km/h on Wednesday. He said temperatures should top in the 20 C range, with afternoon humidity low.

"These conditions will make it somewhat easier for firefighting efforts, but far from perfect. The fires still will be moving," Bunting said. "The ideal situation is that it would turn cold and rain, and unfortunately that's not going to happen."

In addition to those four states, conditions were ripe for fires in Iowa, Missouri and Nebraska. That followed powerful thunderstorms that moved through the middle of the country overnight, spawning dozens of suspected tornadoes, according to the U.S. National Weather Service.

Kansas wildfires have burned about 1,600 square kilometres of land and killed one person. The Kansas Highway Patrol said Corey Holt, of Oklahoma City, died Monday when his tractor-trailer jackknifed as he tried to back up because of poor visibility on a Kansas highway, and he succumbed to smoke after getting out of his vehicle. Two SUVs crashed into the truck, injuring six people, state trooper Michael Racy said.

The largest evacuations elsewhere were in Reno County, Kansas, where 10,000 to 12,000 people voluntarily left their homes Monday night, said Katie Horner, a state Department of Emergency Management spokesperson.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

General condemns Marines for photos

The commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps condemned the use of a secret Facebook page by some Marines to share nude photos of women, including female Marines. And he urged victims to come forward if they have been harassed or abused, including over social media.

Gen. Robert Neller, in a sharp video message released Tuesday, said Marines should be focused on preparing to fight, "not hiding on social media participating in or being aware of actions that are disrespectful and harmful to other Marines. It's embarrassing to our Corps, to our families and to the nation."

The nearly four-minute video, distributed on various Marine websites and social media pages, represents the first expansive comments Neller has made about the jarring controversy that has triggered an investigation by the Naval Criminal Investigative Service.

Nude photographs of female Marines, veterans from across the military, and other women were shared on the Facebook page "Marines United," and the accompanying posts included obscene and threatening comments. The photos, which have now been taken down, showed women in various stages of undress, and some were identified and others were not. The site was touted as being for men only.

It's not clear how many active-duty Marines and other service members were involved or are under investigation. A Marine Corps official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss personnel matters by name, said at least one government contractor was removed from his job after he posted a link to the photographs.

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MISSISSIPPI TRAIN HITS BUS, KILLING 4 PASSENGERS Biloxi firefighters assist injured passengers after their charter bus collided with a train in Biloxi, Miss., Tuesday. The freight train pushed the bus 300 feet down the tracks, with the crash leaving at least four people dead, authorities said. Rescuers spent more than an hour removing passengers, cutting through the bus's heavily damaged frame to extract the last two.

JOHN FITZHUGH/SUN HERALD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Wednesday, March 8, 2017

JESSICA ALLEN ON COMFORT FOOD

After a death in the family, I'm longing for a meal that I'll never eat again.

There's nothing like a good food fight.

Crunchy vs. smooth peanut butter. Milk producers fighting for counter space alongside almond, soy and rice beverages. And home-cooked comfort food stacked up against fine restaurant fare.

That last one is stirring up emotions for political watchers, and for me.

On Sunday, New York Times columnist Frank Bruni asked: "When did we turn into such food snobs here in America, land of the free and home of the Bloomin' Onion?"

He was referring to the mocking of Donald Trump for delighting in a well done steak with a side of ketchup. Teasing Trump for his gauche tastes is "bound to backfire," Bruni argues, not only because it sets up his critics as the "sneering elites" he rails against, but for its hypocrisy. "Let he who is without a bag of microwave popcorn in his cupboard cast the first stone," he writes.

Using that criteria, I could hurl a rock at the president. But expand it to packets of onion soup mix for whipping up a meat loaf, another Trump favourite, and I just called the kettle black.

We don't need Proust to remind us that food is marinated with memory. Although it does help explain why I'll always choose the comforting comestible over the Michelin-starred one. And why, after a recent death in the family, I'm longing for a meal that I'll never be able to make.

After having worked in restaurants for a decade and writing almost exclusively about food for many years, my soft spot for meat and potatoes sometimes surprises people. Foie gras can be sublime. But nine times out of 10, I'll take the meatloaf (the secret is to add some sautéed leeks with the packaged soup, ketchup, and pulverized saltines), with a bottle of Barolo. It's about balance.

Foie gras can be sublime. But nine times out of 10, I'll take the meatloaf.

Jessica Allen and her brother as children delightedly digging into their Aunt Sandy's roast chicken dinner. CONTRIBUTED

Jim Harrison, the great American poet and writer who passed away last year, found that equilibrium. He once ate, and wrote about, a 37-course meal prepared by the famed French chef Marc Meneau, but he also once had a Whopper at Burger King and then drove to McDonald's for a second course of French fries.

Harrison had no patience for food snobbery. When "certain Gucci-Pucci-Armani Italians" told him that they'd never sampled one of his favourite dishes, spaghetti and meatballs, because "the dish is an American perversion of Italian cuisine," he'd always reply: "I don't give a s—."

I'm getting there. Not long ago I admitted on national television that I don't like chicken. A few viewers took this to mean that I am a food snob who thinks poultry is pedestrian. It just depends on the chicken. I occasionally enjoy a quarter chicken dinner (with fries, obviously) from Swiss Chalet.

And my Aunt Sandy's roast chicken is exempt.

For a good decade in my youth, my family, aunts, uncles, and cousins would congregate at her place in Strathroy, Ont., and devour her roast chicken dinners.

Just a couple weeks ago, my mom and I laughed on the phone about how, despite our best efforts, none of us can replicate the meal, not even the boiled potatoes. I can't remember the last time I had it, but if I could choose one last dinner before the Big Light goes out, I told her, it would be Aunt Sandy's roast chicken with all the fixings.

Last Monday, my mom called to tell me that Sandy had suddenly passed away.

While I wrote the obituary in a haze of grief, all I could think about was Aunt Sandy's food. The pots of soup that nourished us after the Strathroy Santa Claus parade, the labour-intensive shrimp dip, which we obliviously piled high on crackers, and the cabbage rolls that I used to think were "authentic," as in a recipe my grandmother brought over from the old country, but was provided by Vi Moffatt, an English woman who lived across the street.

After the funeral, friends and family piled plates with finger sandwiches, jarred green olives, and thick slices of kielbasa, which I brought from Toronto. Sandy loved the stuff, which she referred to as a rather large part of a horse's anatomy. I was worried that it wouldn't get eaten up. Maybe it was too low-brow. But the kielbasa — all eight feet of it — was the first thing to go.

We shared stories: A cousin confessed he dreams of an IV drip filled with her chicken gravy. Another slipped me a photocopied recipe of her exquisite shrimp dip, which calls for a can of tomato soup, Miracle Whip, and four tins of shrimp. And my mom and Sandy's 16 cousins from Mildmay, Ont., confirmed the stories I've heard for years: how the Strathroy "city kids" delighted in doing the "country kids'" farm chores; how five or so chickens in the yard met their death in order to feed the family, which ate in shifts.

On the phone that Monday when my mom called, her pain still raw, she told me that just three days before Sandy died, she'd told her what I'd said about her roast chicken dinner. Sandy was surprised because it was such a simple meal.

"It made her so happy that you remembered," my mom said.

How could I forget?

Jessica Allen is the digital correspondent on CTV's The Social.

VICKY MOCHAMA

We can not stand by as the U.S. becomes unsafe

It is time for Canada to suspend the Safe Third Country Agreement. In fact, it is past due.

With its policies, Donald Trump's government has declared open season on Muslims and immigrants. The courts struck down the initial travel ban, yet the Trump administration has doubled down on its commitments.

Now the dangerous rhetoric and policy from the West Wing has filtered down to its citizenry.

Jewish community centres and cemeteries are receiving threats. In Washington state Deep Rai, a Sikh man, was shot on his driveway on March 3 by a suspect who reportedly told him to "go back to your country." In Kansas last month, two men were shot, one fatally, by a man who allegedly asked the Indian immigrants if their "status was legal" before opening fire, according to reported witness accounts.

The American government looks set to formalize a system of oppression directed at its racialized citizens and at migrants searching for safety. They must do this without Canada's complacency.

The uptick in migrants claiming asylum by walking across the border is a direct response to the climate of fear that migrants face under Donald Trump. It is also a response to the particular requirements of the Safe Third Country Agreement, which requires refugees declare asylum in the first country they arrive in, with the assumption that both are sanctuaries. This only applies, however, at official border crossings.

As Vice reported, asylum claimants who mistakenly apply at an official crossing actually risk deportation back to the original country they are fleeing.

Only a broken process penalizes people for using it.

Refugees are risking life and limb to get here; they are telling Canadians that the U.S. is not safe for them. Our government has responded to this urgent message with vagueness and equivocation.

Asked Monday by NDP Leader Thomas Mulcair if the U.S. is still safe for refugees, Prime Minister Trudeau didn't answer directly. On the updated travel ban, Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale told reporters: "This is a detailed matter with some careful nuances and we're going to be looking at all the details so we can provide Canadians with complete information about everything they need to know."

The responsible course here is to suspend the Safe Third Country Agreement. The moral – and smart – move is to follow up that suspension with a coherent plan to assist refugees arriving from the United States.

We are now on the second iteration of the executive order, which comes well over a month after the chaos sown by the first. Despite calls from a number of legal organizations to suspend the agreement, including Harvard Law School, the Canadian Civil Liberties Association and Amnesty International Canada, our government has stood still.

Migrants have not. They cannot afford to.

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Your essential daily news

George Michael died of natural causes as the result of heart disease, a British coroner has ruled

3 TREATS TO MAKE SQUARES HIP AGAIN

The humble, almost retro square could be primed for a timely kitchen comeback. ISTOCK

Sure, squares are considered the domain of grandmothers and church cookbooks. But these somewhat frumpy delicacies have stood the test of time for a reason. All but the fanciest are faster and simpler than cookies, and all are satisfyingly chewy and extremely shareable. Yet squares have been supplanted by trendier fare: finicky macarons, over-iced and over-priced cupcakes and preposterous cronuts. We think the humble bar cookie deserves more love. Sometimes, cutting corners can be a good thing. Here are some favourite recipes to get you started. **GENNA BUCK**

1 Browned butter crispy rice treats

Deb Perelman, the home chef behind the Internet sensation Smitten Kitchen, is an evangelist for this modernized version of a classic after-school snack. They take "five minutes, tops" longer than the traditional version, Perelman wrote, and if you're willing to share, "get ready to make friends."

Ingredients:
- ½ cup unsalted butter, plus extra for the pan
- 1 (285-gram) bag marshmallows
- Heaping 1/4 teaspoon coarse sea salt
- 6 cups crispy rice cereal

Directions:
1. Butter an 8-inch square cake pan with 2-inch sides.

2. In a large pot, melt butter over medium-low heat. Watch carefully. As soon as the butter takes on a nutty color, turn the heat off and stir in the marshmallows. Stir until the marshmallows are smooth.

3. Remove the pot from the stove and stir in the salt and cereal. Quickly spread into prepared pan. Cool before cutting into squares.

SMITTENKITCHEN.COM

2 Fresh Lemon Bars

These sunshine-hued, sweet-tart bars are a picnic standby, and they're ideal for getting kids involved in the kitchen, **Ceri Marsh and Laura Keogh** of Sweet Potato Chronicles write. Little hands can help with pressing the crust into the pan, cracking eggs and grating the frozen butter. And, it goes without saying, they're pros at gobbling them down.

Ingredients:
Crust
- 2 cups flour
- 1/3 cup wheat germ
- 1/3 cup confectioner's sugar
- 3/4 tsp salt
- 2 sticks frozen butter

Filling
- 1 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/3 cup flour
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 3/4 cups lemon juice (I used 4 Meyer lemons)
- 1 Tbsp zest
- 3 eggs
- 1 egg yolk

Directions:
1. Preheat your oven to 350 degrees. Butter a 9x13 glass pan with a bit of butter. Mix dry ingredients for the crust. Grate the sticks of frozen butter with a cheese grater. Toss the frozen butter curls into the flour mixture until you have a mealy texture. Press the loose dough into the pan and use your hands to flatten it. Chill for 15 minutes

2. Bake the crust for 15 to 18 minutes until just beginning to turn golden.

3. Mix sugar, flour and salt

for the filling. Add lemon juice and zest and blend well. Whisk in eggs and the yolk. Gently pour filing mixture onto the hot crust. If you don't pour a small stream, the weight of the filling will dent the crust.

4. Bake for 18 to 20 minutes until the filling has just set. Allow to cool completely before slicing into squares.

SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

3 Chocolate almond toffee bars

These treats — which are similar to a coconut-laden southern speciality, the Hello Dolly square — are one of TV chef **Anna Olsen**'s most requested recipes.

Ingredients:
- 1 1/2 cups rolled oats
- 1/2 cup graham cracker crumbs
- 1/4 tsp fine salt
- 1/2 cup unsalted butter, melted
- 1 cup Skor toffee bits
- 1 cup chocolate chips
- 1 cup sliced almonds
- 1 can sweetened condensed milk

Directions:
1. Preheat the oven to 350°F (180°C). Grease and line an 8-inch square pan with parchment paper so that the paper hangs over the sides of the pan.

2. Stir the oats, graham crumbs and salt in a bowl to combine, then stir in the melted butter. Press the crumbly oat mixture into the prepared pan. Sprinkle Skor bits evenly on top, followed by chocolate chips and sliced almonds.

3. Pour condensed milk evenly over pan. Bake for 30 to 40 minutes, or until the top is golden brown and the edges are bubbling.

4. Cool to room temperature in the pan, then chill for at least 4 hours before slicing into bars.

IN THE KITCHEN WITH ANNA: NEW WAYS WITH THE CLASSICS, WHITECAP BOOKS

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Never a bad time for our liquid gold

RECIPE

Pass the bottle: maple syrup is just as delish in savoury dishes

Ricardo Larrivée
For Torstar News Service

Full disclosure: I love maple syrup. In all honesty, I love maple anything!

Canada's liquid gold is just as delicious in savoury dishes as it is in desserts, and I've got the recipe to prove it: an incredible melt-in-your-mouth braised beef roast.

Simmered slowly with maple syrup and tamari (a perfectly balanced salty-sweet combination) and crushed peppercorns, crushed coriander seeds and hot pepper flakes, it's a riot of comforting, stimulating flavours — and oh so morish.

But it's the accompaniment that takes this divine dish to another level: a plateful of toothsome soba noodles (Japanese noodles that are made from buckwheat flour, with a thickness comparable to spaghetti) prepared with crisp snap peas, garlic, cilantro and toasted cashews.

Whether for a family meal at home or for a bigger gang at a dinner party, this dish is guaranteed to win over hearts — and stomachs!

Tamari-Maple Braised Beef
Servings: 4

Ingredients:
Beef
- 1 1/2 lb (675 g) boneless beef blade roast, cut into 4 pieces
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) olive oil
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1/2 tsp red pepper flakes
- 1/2 tsp crushed black peppercorns
- 1/2 tsp crushed coriander seeds
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) maple syrup
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) tamari
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) chicken broth
- 1 red bell pepper, diced

Soba Noodles
- 1/2 lb (225 g) soba (Japanese buckwheat noodles)
- 3 cups (100 g) sugar snap peas, halved lengthwise
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) vegetable oil
- 4 garlic cloves, chopped
- 2 tbsp unsalted cashews, toasted and coarsely chopped
- 2 tbsp chopped cilantro

Ready in 3 HOURS

Directions:
Beef
1. With the rack in the middle position, preheat the oven to 325°F (170°C).

2. In an ovenproof pot or Dutch oven over medium-high heat, brown the meat on all sides in the oil. Season with pepper. Set aside on a plate.

3. In the same pot over medium heat, brown the onion, adding oil if necessary. Add the spices and continue cooking for about 1 minute.

4. Return the meat to the pot and add the remaining ingredients. Bring to a boil. Cover, transfer to the oven and cook for 2 ½ hours or until the meat is fork tender.

Soba Noodles
5. In a pot of salted boiling water, cook the noodles until al dente. Drain and oil lightly. Set aside.

6. In a skillet over medium heat, stir-fry the peas in the oil until al dente. Season with salt and pepper.

7. Add the garlic and cook for 1 minute more. Add the noodles and continue cooking until heated through. Adjust the seasoning.

8. Divide the noodles among bowls. Top with the beef and drizzle with the cooking juices. Garnish with cashews and cilantro.

This tamari-maple braised beef with soba noodles is a riot of comforting, stimulating flavours that is guaranteed to win over hearts — and stomachs. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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ROSE REISMAN THE SAVVY EATER

THIS WEEK: Goat's cheese vs feta

A swap of these similar cheeses can save you on salt.

PICK THIS

PC Blue Menu Goat's Milk Cheese (1/3 cup)

Calories 100
Fat 6g
Sodium 190mg

SKIP THIS

Skip: Saputo Fetos Feta (1/3 cup)

Calories 160
Fat 14g
Sodium 1040mg

HERE'S WHY **Equivalent in sodium to a 6 inch Steak and Cheese sub from Subway.**

These soft and crumbly cheeses are favourites, especially for salads, pasta, pizza and main entrees. Both have nutritional benefits: goat cheese has twice the protein, while feta has twice the calcium. However, feta contains five and a half times more sodium than goat cheese, as it is packaged in a brine. That's close to half your daily amount.

LIQUID ASSETS PETER ROCKWELL

Bottles of substance with a bit of style too

Not that I like cheating on my relationship with the liquid side of wine, it's just that I'm a sucker for a pretty package.

While a psychedelic label wrapped around a sexy bottle would never make me admire poorly made juice, I know that when faced with a wall of wine the average consumer, me included, is drawn to anything bright and shiny. Arguably the most famous example of style over substance was the tubby, straw-wrapped flasks, called a fiasco, that the reds from Italy's Chianti region made popular back in the 1970s. Now filled with premium wine, the bottle is actually making a comeback.

Keeping with the Italian theme, Enoitalia is a company that knows how to rock a receptacle. Resembling a gigantic perfume sample (the ones that come in those small cardboard folders) its Voga Pinot Grigio ($13.95-$16.99) was a hit right out of the gate. Made from grapes grown in the provinces of Veneto and Trentino the 2015 vintage offers a clean, lean mix of bright fruit without the steely character or sweeter overtones often associated with Pinot Grigio.

Prices reflect the range across the country. Some products may not be available in all provinces.

GRAIN BOOST

General Mills ready to push production of Kernza

A sweet, nutty-tasting new grain called Kernza is getting a big boost from food giant General Mills, which is intrigued by the potentially big environmental benefits of the drought-resistant crop with long roots that doesn't need to be replanted every year.

General Mills announced partnerships with The Land Institute and the University of Minnesota to help commercialize Kernza, a wild relative of wheat, and to incorporate the grain into cereals and snacks under its Cascadian Farm organic brand. The company hopes to put those products on grocery store shelves early next year. It's also urging other food companies to help create a market for Kernza.

"It's rare that you find something like this that, if you work at it, has so many environmental benefits associated with it. That's one of the reasons we're excited about this," Jerry Lynch, chief sustainability officer for General Mills said.

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INTERVIEW

Robert Wang's Instant Pot the hottest thing in the kitchen

By now there's probably someone in your office raving about their new Instant Pot, the kitchen appliance that's a combination of pressure cooker, slow cooker, rice cooker, steamer and yogurt maker that will also keep your food warm and sauté meats and veggies.

"It's life-changing, and I can make chili with dried beans in an hour," one co-worker marvelled. "I always make my mom's Portuguese chicken soup with it," said another.

In the past two weeks, three more coworkers shelled out $185 for the Canadian invention.

The Instant Pot Community Facebook group has more than 400,000 members sharing recipes, hacks, videos and for some of the more hardcore users, pictures of rolling carts dedicated for the Instant Pot, the appliance decked out in decals for a personalized touch and recommendations on what bags built specifically to carry the Instant Pot is best. This week, an "authorized" Instant Pot special

Robert Wang started Instant Pot after being laid off as a telecom engineer. BLAIR GABLE

issue recipe magazine hit the newsstands.

The Instant Pot's story began during the 2008 economic bust when Robert Wang, a laid-off Ottawa telecom engineer, made a 180-degree turn in his career and looked at household appliances. With nary a marketing plan and a staff of only 25, two million Instant Pots have since landed on kitchen counters, mainly from word-of-mouth raves, and spurred an industry of Instant Pot-heads with their own cookbooks and fan clubs.

At least part of its genius is it helped home cooks get over the one enduring fear of pressure cookers — the kablooey factor.

"Why smartphones succeed is that they have nine to 10 sensors whether it's in the camera or screens. I thought what if we added more censors to the pressure cooker? We can make it safer, provide consistency and automation," says Wang, the 53-year-old CEO of Ottawa-based Double Insight, the company behind the Instant Pot.

Wang and his colleagues looked into the electrical pressure cooker, which was gaining popularity as people were cooking more rather than dining out, but wanted a meal that was also healthy and fast. A pressure cooker works by creating an airtight seal in the cooker, building pressure inside the pot and forcing hot steam into the food, rendering the toughest meats into a tender, juicy meal in a fraction of the time it would take in the slow cooker or oven.

> **We want to reimagine the kitchen and apply the same technology to other appliances.**
> Robert Wang

The Instapot works in the same way, but sets itself apart from other pressure cookers with additional features like slow cooker, rice cooker, yogurt maker, and sauté.

The first Instant Pot went on sale in 2010 with subsequent models released every 12 to 18 months, each with incremental improvements such as an added yogurt-making function; presets for different foods; accessories like a rack for eggs and in the newest fourth generation model: bluetooth capability.

To promote it, the company gave free Instant Pots to influential food bloggers and recipe developers to test, but it was Amazon's rankings and reviews that Wang used to track success: January 2013 was the tipping point when the second-generation model ranked higher than all other stovetop pressure cookers on Amazon's bestseller list.

With more than 2,000 reviews averaging 4.5 out of 5 stars on its bestseller third-generation model, it's an endorsement better than any ad the company could buy. Fans released Instant Pot cookbooks, a Facebook group called Instant Pot Recipes 101 has 17,000 members, and thousands of Instant Pot cooking videos can be found on YouTube.

Other appliances are in the works but what will be the followup to the Instant Pot, Wang is unsurprisingly tight-lipped.

"We want to reimagine the kitchen and apply the same technology to other appliances," says Wang. "The Instant Pot isn't the be-all-and-end-all product."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

GET THAT POT BUBBLING TWO RECIPES FOR YOUR NEW INSTANT POT

1 Mushroom and pea risotto

This classic Italian rice dish is what Instant Pot devotees say sold them on the gadget. There's no need to keep an eye on the pot or constant stirring, perfect for parents with tykes running around. This recipe is has been adapted from Serious Eats' recipe for Pressure Cooker Mushroom Risotto.

Ingredients:

- 1/4 cup (60 mL) olive oil
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) unsalted butter
- 1-1/2 lbs (670g) mixed mushrooms
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 1 medium yellow onion, diced
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 cups (500 mL) arborio rice
- 1 tbsp + 1 tsp (20 mL) white miso paste
- 2 tsp (10 mL) Japanese soy sauce
- 3/4 cup (180 mL) dry white wine
- 1-900 mL box no-salt added vegetable or chicken broth
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) finely grated parmesan, plus more for garnish
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) frozen peas, rinsed and drained
- Chopped parsley, for garnish

Directions:

1. Using Sauté function on "normal" setting, heat oil and butter. Stir until butter is melted and bubbly. Add mushrooms. Season with salt and pepper. Stir occasionally until mushrooms are browned and excess moisture has cooked off, about 15 minutes depending on variety of mushrooms.

2. Add onions and garlic. Stir frequently until onions are soft, about 3 to 4 minutes. Add rice and stir until grains are lightly toasted but not browned (centre of rice will remain opaque but edges will turn translucent). Stir in miso paste and soy sauce. Add wine and stir frequently until alcohol smell has cooked off, about 2 minutes.

3. Press "Keep Warm/Cancel" button. Add broth. Secure lid on Instant Pot, making sure valve is switched to "Sealing" mode. Cook risotto on Manual setting for 5 minutes at low pressure.

4. When time is up, carefully pull release valve and let steam escape until float valve drops to indicate lid is safe to remove.

5. Remove lid. Stir to let remaining liquid evaporate. Taste. Add salt and pepper, if necessary. Stir in parmesan and peas. Transfer to serving plates and garnish.

Makes 6 to 10 servings

2 Korean chili pulled pork

Pork shoulder is a popular cut for pressure cooking since it can render the tough and relatively affordable piece of meat into juicy pulled pork in an hour (it would take five to seven in a slow cooker). Gochujang, fermented Korean chili paste, and gochugaru, Korean chili flakes can be found at Asian grocers or the Asian aisle at the supermarket. The pork can be served on rice, in tacos, or in a bun with slaw, but I like serving it in steamed baos, found in the refrigerate section of Asian grocers. They take 15 minutes to steam. This recipe will fill about 20 baos.

Ingredients:

For the gochujang sauce

- 1-200 g container or 1/2 cup (250 mL) gochujang
- 1/4 cup (60 mL) apple cider vinegar
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) brown sugar
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) Japanese soy sauce
- 1 tsp (5 mL) each garlic powder, onion powder, gochugaru or any chili flakes

For the pork

- 1 tbsp (15 mL) vegetable or canola oil
- 1-4 lb (1.8 kg) bone-in, skin-on pork shoulder cut into 4 large chunks
- 1 medium-sized yellow onion, chopped
- 4 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) fresh ginger, minced
- 1 cup (250 mL) no-salt added beef broth

Directions:

1. In a large bowl, mix all ingredients for the sauce. Set aside. Using Sauté function on "normal" setting, heat oil. In batches, brown meat on all sides till golden brown. Remove all pork from pot. Sauté onion, garlic and ginger in rendered fat till soft. Add broth to deglaze pot, scraping bottom of pot with a wooden spatula to loosen bits of caramelized pork. Press "Keep Warm/Cancel" button. Return pork to pot.

2. Secure lid on pot, making sure valve is on "Sealing" setting. Turn on Manual function and cook for 50 minutes on high pressure.

3. When time is up, let cooker depressurize naturally, about 15 to 20 minutes. Remove lid and check if pork is fork tender. If not, replace lid and cook on high pressure for another 10 minutes.

4. Transfer pork to a large bowl. Discard bones and skin. Shred meat with two forks. Toss pork in gochujang sauce. Serve immediately with rice, in tacos, in soft burger buns or steamed baos.

Makes 8 to 10 servings

JOHANNA SCHNELLER
WHAT I'M WATCHING

Parenting: By Mother Russia

Keri Russell as Elizabeth Jennings keeps a close watch on Holly Taylor as Paige Jennings in The Americans. FX

THE SHOW: The Americans, Season 5, Episode 1
THE MOMENT: The self-defence lesson

American teenager Paige Jennings (Holly Taylor) is losing sleep over the knowledge that her parents Elizabeth (Keri Russell) and Philip (Matthew Rhys) are Soviet spies living under deep cover in the U.S. "I want to help you with your nightmares," Elizabeth tells her.

Elizabeth takes Paige to the garage. She pushes her shoulders, hard. Paige staggers. Elizabeth pushes her again. Paige moves away. Elizabeth follows and pushes her face. "Mom!" Paige protests.

"You can't be afraid to hit and you can't be afraid to hit back," Elizabeth tells her. "You don't want to get hurt? You have to be willing to do anything to protect yourself. Make a fist." Paige does. Elizabeth tucks in her thumb. "Like this, always," she says.

This is a great little scene, scary not just for Paige, but for us. For four seasons, Elizabeth has been like this, always: the unwavering zealot who will do anything for Mother Russia. Here, she's not just teaching her daughter, she's explaining herself.

Russell is perfect for this character, a petite beauty yet hard as nails. Her face in this scene is a study. You think she might feel torn about pushing her kid around, but nope. She means it.

Suddenly we get a flash of where this season is going: If Elizabeth ever had to protect herself from Paige, would she go all the way? It's a shivery thought.

That confrontation doesn't happen in this episode. But another, lesser one does. Does Elizabeth make good on her word? Damn right she does.

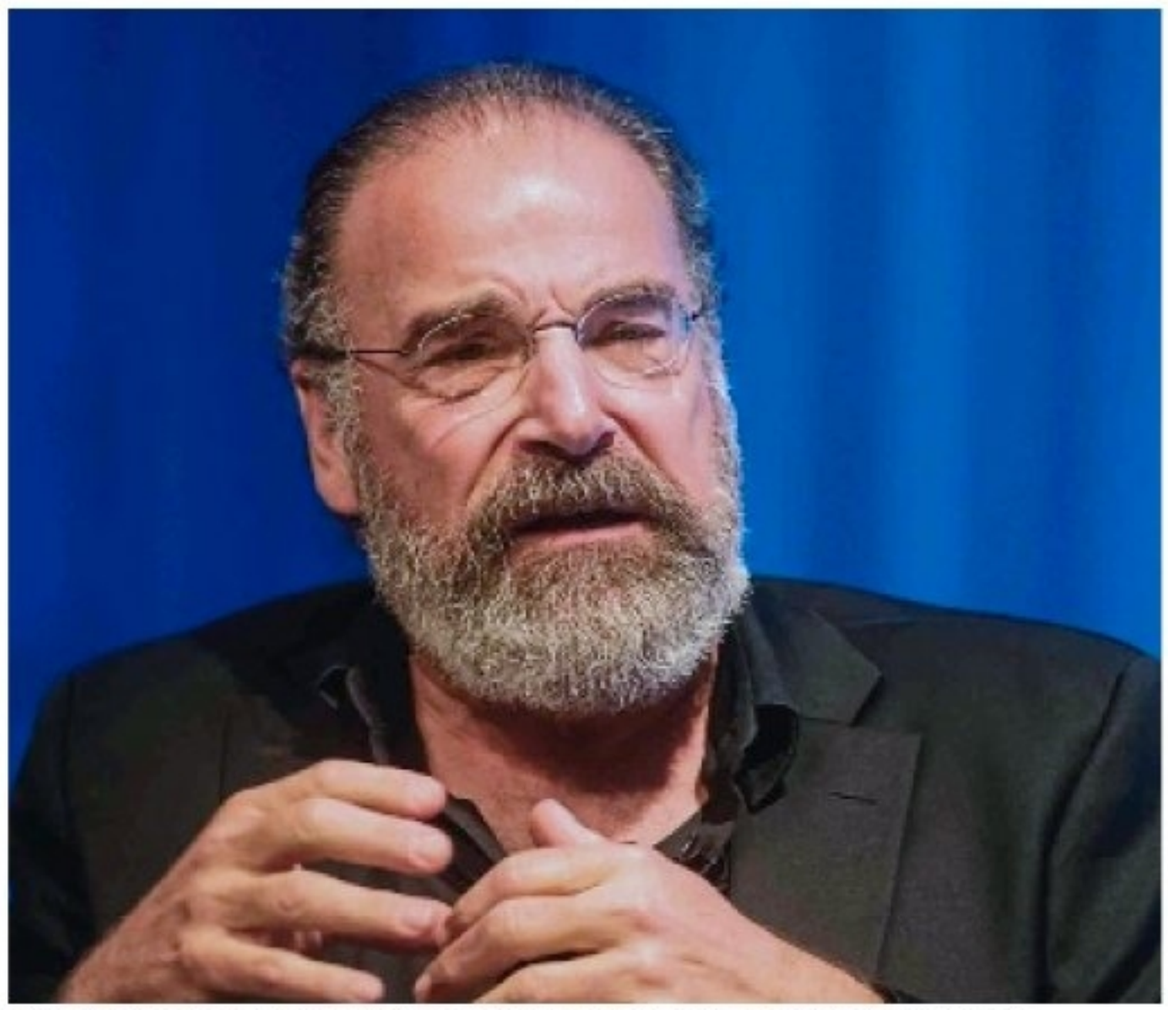
The Americans airs Tuesdays at 9 p.m. on FX Canada.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

Patinkin's playing a part in his real-life homeland

INTERVIEW

Spy drama is righting 'error' of its depiction of Muslims



Mandy Patinkin is back as Saul Berenson for a sixth season of Homeland. GETTY IMAGES

Mandy Patinkin knows that his show Homeland hasn't always shown Muslims in the best light — but he says that is changing with the award-winning show's sixth season.

"It's deeply important to me," he said.

"In all kinds of entertainment — movies, television — there are always the bad guys; the cowboys and Indians, then the Russians were the bad guys, the Nazis were the bad guys. Now it seems like Muslim 'terrorists' are the bad guys," he said.

"So, inadvertently, because it's an action show, it's an on-the-edge-of-your-seat political drama that Homeland is, unintentionally we were not helping the Muslim community and we take responsibility for it. And I know I can speak for the writers when they want to right that error that happened because of storytelling."

The Showtime show, which also stars Claire Danes, is highly acclaimed but has also been criticized for its depiction of Muslims as terrorists. In the new season, Danes' character Carrie Mathison is back in the U.S., helping American Muslims.

"We're part of the problem, but we also desperately want to be part of the cure and we are working toward that in our storylines," he said. "If you watch the whole thing as a whole — when you read a novel just don't read one chapter — if you watch the whole thing as a whole, especially this season, the sixth season, you'll see who the bad guys really are and you may have surprises in store for you," he said.

Patinkin, who also praised the Muslim community for its contributions to the world's civilization, is trying to make a difference in his own life as well.

He works with refugees as part of his work with the International Rescue Committee, and he urged President Trump to be more welcoming to people displaced from war-torn countries.

Trump has revised his initial travel ban to six countries instead of seven, but they are all from Muslim-majority nations, and it temporarily shuts down America's refugee program.

"He wants people to like him and to like America and to make America great again. America will be made great again by nourishing and encouraging people's moral and ethical nature. Encouraging their human-beingness, not their fear," Patinkin said.

"I beg the leaders of the world, of the U.S., of the European community, to stop being afraid, to start working together, to listen to the lives of these souls that are no different than your own family, who are desperately in need and to work in solidarity with their moral and ethical code and nature that I know they have."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

> **America will be made great again by nourishing and encouraging people's moral and ethical nature.**
> Mandy Patinkin

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CELEBRATING CANADA'S GIFTS TO THE WORLD

Defying gravity

SCIENCE

Is Hudson Bay a portal to another dimension?

Sean Plummer

Moving there won't mean you suddenly weigh a lot less (or get one bit skinner), but the fact that gravity is demonstrably lower in Canada's Hudson Bay is certainly notable.

Scientists first noticed the anomaly back in the 1960s while conducting a global gravity survey.

Could it be a portal to another dimension, wondered conspiracy theorists? Well, that explanation was as good as any until 2007 when new satellite data helped scientists come up with a slightly more plausible view.

Around 10,000 years ago, the Laurentide Ice Sheet, which covered present-day Canada and much of the northern U.S. in miles-thick ice, weighed so much that it displaced rocks across a huge area. Ever since, the Earth has been rebounding ever so slightly, but that lack of mass has meant lower gravity readings in the area.

Add to this the fact that continental convection currents are slowly dragging down tectonic plates into the Earth, and you have what's not exactly an anti-gravity area, but a cool Canadian curiosity.

Gravity is demonstably lower in Canada's Hudson Bay. ISTOCK

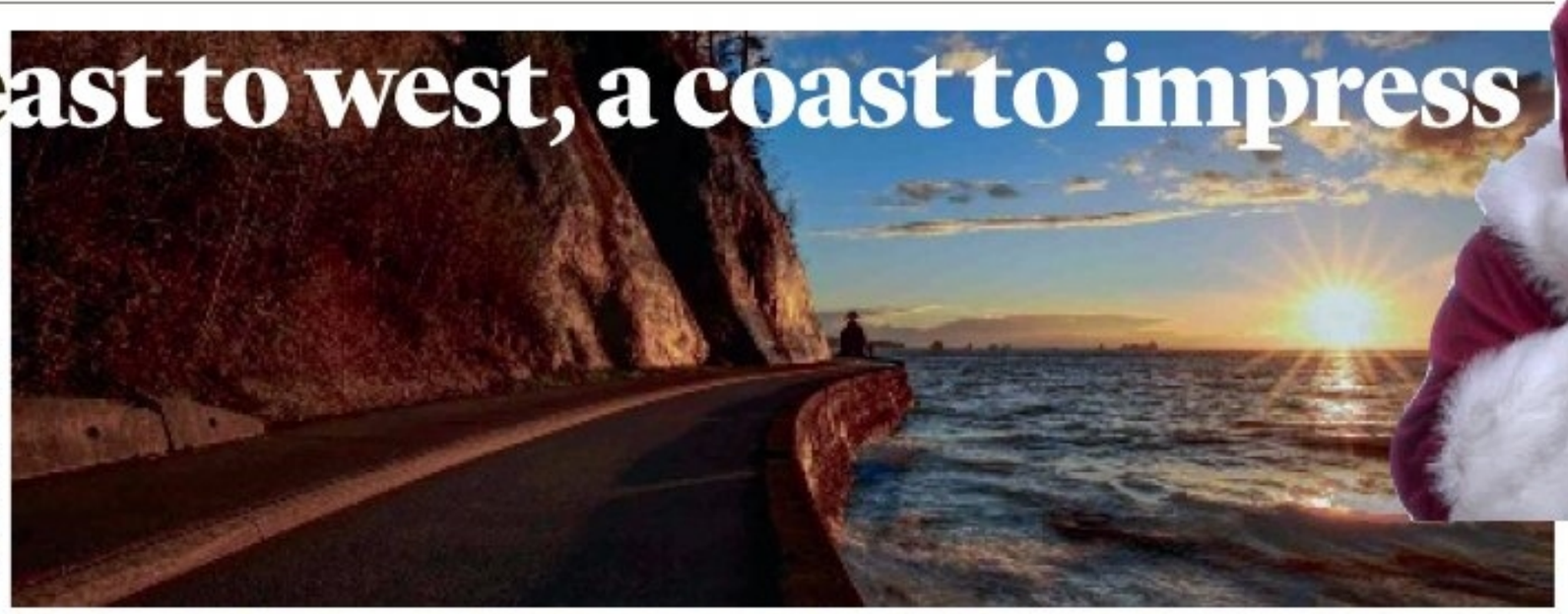
From east to west, a coast to impress

Canadians are not typically boastful by nature, but as we are celebrating our country's 150th anniversary this year, we will take every advantage we can.

So when you are looking for facts to sell Canada as the greatest country, you can pull out this one: we have the most coast.

With borders that take in the Atlantic, Pacific and Arctic oceans, we can boast about 202,080 km of coast, nearly four times as much as the runner-up, Indonesia.

SEAN PLUMMER



Drive along part of Canada's exquisite 202,080 km of coast on the Sea to Sky Highway south of Vancouver. ISTOCK

Santa lives here!

Of course Santa Claus is a Canadian. He even has his own postal code to prove it: H0H 0H0.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau declared the same in Parliament back in 2013 when discussion turned to the Russians wanting to step up military activity in Santa's backyard.

The NDP declared Santa to be a "citizen of the world," but we are behind Justin on this one. Besides, why else would he be wearing red and white?

SEAN PLUMMER

Santa Claus is a Canadian. ISTOCK

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BON APPÉTIT

Whitehall's Michelin-starred chef makes British comfort food gourmet

Shelley Boettcher

England's loss has been Calgary's gain. In 2015, Neil McCue opened Whitehall, which has quickly become one of the city's top restaurants. CONTRIBUTED

A little over two years ago, Neil McCue was one of the darlings of the British food scene. His restaurant, The Curlew, had been awarded a Michelin star, and he was getting rave reviews from critics across Europe. Then he walked away from it all and moved to Calgary.

"I'd had enough of England and the rat race," he says with a quiet laugh. "And it felt like a good time to see the world again."

England's loss has been Calgary's gain. In 2015, McCue opened Whitehall, which has quickly become one of the city's top restaurants. Located in Bridgeland's historic de Waal Block, the restaurant focuses on English classics made with Canadian ingredients. Much of it is comfort food, with a fine-dining flourish.

There's always a meat pie on the menu, for example (he's recently added a duck pie). "I'm a British person, so I think we should always have a pie on the menu," he says. "Everyone likes that kind of food: comfort food, but reworked in a way that has some effort put into it."

The restaurant's famous fish and chips are similar. Back home in Britain, he notes, the dish is great takeout. At Whitehall, however, it's gourmet at its best — and a customer favourite. "People really want a good fish and chips, and I have no problems providing it," McCue says. "It's something I grew up with and when it's done well, it's really good."

It isn't the first time that McCue has been creating unforgettable seafood dishes for Calgarians, however. Nor is Whitehall McCue's first Canadian restaurant experience. In 2001, he was part of the team that opened Catch on Stephen Avenue. He's also done stints at Langdon Hall and the Oliver & Bonacini Group of restaurants in Ontario.

McCue has gone from New World to Old World and back again. Will he one day return to the United Kingdom? Despite his evident fondness for all things Canadian, McCue admits his English fans haven't exactly forgotten him. Nor has he forgotten them.

"I get approached by people all the time, and being British, you do have thoughts of going home sometimes," he says. "But I'm all about Whitehall for now."

ROYAL LINE

The name Whitehall comes from the Palace of Whitehall, which was home to kings Henry VIII and William III before being destroyed by a fire in 1698. Whitehall is now the name of the road that passes through London, England, connecting much of the British government, including the Cabinet Office and Ministry of Defence.

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VW aims to seduce with Atlas

HANDOUT

REVIEW

Will crossover be enough to gain back buyers' trust?

Sami Haj-Assaad
AutoGuide.com

The German automaker is addressing a weakness in its lineup with a new three-row crossover called the Atlas. It's not an overstatement to call the Atlas an important vehicle to Volkswagen.

Not only do they have to prove to buyers that they're a competent automaker again, but they also have to deliver in a segment that's extremely important to North Americans.

The Atlas is a big car but is based on the modular MQB platform that also underpins the Golf compact. Competing with the likes of the Ford Explorer and Toyota Highlander isn't easy, but fortunately, the Atlas starts with this well-developed platform.

In terms of handling feel, it feels agile and responsive, highlighting an ability to excel as a road trip vehicle. Don't forget that for many year VW produced the iconic Type 2 Microbus that's often remembered as the go-to cross-country cruiser.

There's a bit of that spirit here in the Atlas: the light steering is appropriate for the segment and the suspension glides over rough roads. The car comes with a turbocharged four-cylinder engine as base equipment, sending 235 horsepower to the front wheels. Optionally, you can get a V6 engine and all-wheel drive. The V6 seems a bit underpowered at 276 horses, while the competition is closer to 300 but the eight-speed automatic transmission does what it can to put the engine in the best gear for acceleration and responsiveness.

In addition to their capability, buyers choose crossovers because of the space they offer. In this area, the Atlas really excels. Headroom in the front and second row is fantastic, but the legroom in that second row is luxurious. Furthermore, seats slide, offering those in the third row a surprising amount of space.

While full details on pricing, trim levels and specifications will be shared in April, we were told that the base Atlas will come in at $35,690 and top out in the fifties. While still prototypes, the Atlases we drove were extremely solid vehicles and impressed in many ways. Volkswagen is taking this market seriously, especially since it's so late to the big crossover party.

THE CHECKLIST | 2018 VOLKSWAGEN ATLAS REVIEW

THE BASICS

Engine: 2.0-litre turbo four-cylinder, 3.6L V6
Output: 235 horsepower (2.0T), 276 hp (V6)
Transmission: Eight-speed automatic
Fuel Economy (L/100 km): Not available
Price: Starts at $35,690

LOVE IT

- Spacious
- Low starting price
- Smooth and comfortable driving dynamics

LEAVE IT

- V6 is just OK
- Interior design hit or miss

5 COOLEST KINDS OF HOOD ORNAMENTS

The hood ornament reputedly dates all the way back to the chariots of Egyptian Pharaohs. As a sculpture on the prow of a car, though, hood ornaments evolved from the motometer. Designed as a temperature gauge, these important pieces got fancier over time and eventually became a popular way to personalize a car. Here are the five coolest hood ornaments out there. SEBASTIEN BELL/AUTOGUIDE.COM

HANDOUT

1 Humanoid

As far as we can tell, there are five basic types of ornamentation for the prow of a car, the first of which is the humanoid. Possibly the best-known style, this type uses the human form as its inspiration. These aren't just cool because they remind us of the figureheads on wooden ships, they're also almost all excellent pieces of Art Deco design. The humanoid ornament has figured prominently on Packards, and the Pierce Arrow throughout history, but the only one that could have won this category is one of the only hood ornaments that continues to adorn cars to this day: Rolls-Royce's Spirit of Ecstasy (pictured).

Not only is it beautiful, it comes with a tale of intrigue, too. Originally commissioned by a Rolls owner as a secret love note to his mistress, the sculptor was so pleased with the result that when he was asked by Rolls-Royce to design a standard ornament for the brand, he submitted the same, largely unchanged figure.

GETTY IMAGES

2 Crest

The second type of hood ornament is the crest. Like a coat of arms, this hood ornament is usually comprised of a basic shape with the manufacturer's name included. It could be argued that this type of ornament still exists, just glued flat against the car. Studebaker used the crest, as did Buick and Maybach, but our favorite is Cadillac's (pictured here).

The ornament takes its inspiration from the family crest of Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac, who founded Detroit back when it was part of New France. The crest had a crown and merlettes on it, as well as a laurel wreath, all of which referred to Cadillac's noble blood. The only problem was that he didn't really have any royal blood and he likely created the crest himself. But what more American story could there be than a person of humble origins who came to the new world and made something of themselves?

GETTY IMAGES

3 Animals

Next comes the animal ornament. Possibly the most common type, these ornaments use the attributes of beasts to make promises about the performance of a car. Like other types, animal ornaments can be about speed, but they can also be about more. Bugatti used an elephant on its Royale to speak to the scale of its massive regal limousine and also used a British Bulldog.

One of the best uses of the animal, though, was the stork on the hood of the Hispano-Suiza (pictured), based on the emblem first used by the French airforce's third squadron during the First World War.

The squadron was known as "Les Cigognes," because they reminded the French people of the storks that flew in the German-occupied Alsace region. The planes were powered by Hispano-Suizaa V8s. After the war, Hispano-Suiza decided to honour the famous third squadron by using the same stork on its cars.

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4 Abstract

Next, we come to the abstract hood ornament. Freed from the requirements of literal representation, these can represent speed or comfort or luxury with pure design. Packard experimented with such ornaments in the late '40s, as did Oldsmobile a decade before. Probably the most American type of ornament, they were popular during the jet era and speak to the nation's growing confidence.

Our favourite appeared on the Buick Super 8 line. The ornament is known as the "Bombsight" (pictured above) and first appeared in 1946 when postwar production began. It was a bold, luxurious item in a time when chrome was hard to come by. The ornament later came to include a V, to proudly proclaim that these were powered by Buick's Rocket V8, which was popular among hot rodders for its torque production.

5 Tiny sculptures

Finally, the graven image. These are tiny sculptures made to look like a specific object. As with the abstract ornament, these were popular in America during the jet age because, as you can imagine, everyone wanted a rocket or a jet plane on the hood of their car. Again, these are mostly streamlined and Art Deco, and they were employed by brands like Moon Motor Cars and Oldsmobile.

Sometimes they aren't about speed, though, as was the case with Plymouth's early Mayflower ornament (pictured left). In its press materials, the company writes that it got its name because its products were simple, tough, and effective, like the pilgrims. In a moment of candor, though, the head of sales at Chrysler said that the company was named after a brand of baler twine, because Chrysler wanted to poach rural customers from Ford and the association to the pilgrims came later. Whatever the case, the ship is unique and looks good.

CONCEPT

Jaguar I-Pace on fire in Photon Red

Sam McEachern
AutoGuide.com

I-Pace stuns in red. HANDOUT

The Jaguar I-Pace concept made an appearance in a striking Photon Red shade at the 2017 Geneva International Motor Show.

The concept, which will debut in production form later this year before going on sale in early 2018, was first shown in a muted silver exterior colour at the 2016 Los Angeles Auto Show.

The automaker has already received 350 preorders for the fully electric crossover, barely a drop in the bucket compared to the 373,000 Tesla received for its Model 3 sedan, but still a positive sign for Jag.

Powering the I-Pace will be a pair of electric motors that together produce 395 horsepower and 516 pound-feet of torque and a 90-kWh lithium ion battery. Jaguar claims the crossover can sprint to 100 km/h in 4.0 seconds and achieve a maximum range of around 480 kilometres. A 50-kW direct current (DC) charging port can charge the battery to 80 per cent of its range in 90 minutes and to 100 per cent in a little over two hours.

The I-Pace boasts an all-new aluminum platform that utilizes the same double-wishbone front suspension and the integral link rear suspension as the F-Pace. The lithium-ion battery pack is located low and between the front axles, ensuring a low center of gravity and near 50/50 weight distribution. According to chief engineer of vehicle integrity at Jaguar-Land Rover, Mike Cross, the I-Pace is a "true Jaguar," and will be "the first electric vehicle developed for enthusiasts who love driving."

Jaguar says the production I-Pace will cost about 10 to 15 per cent more than the F-Pace, which starts at $50,900 in Canada.

Get excited wagon lovers

SPOILER

Porsche unveils new Panamera Sport Turismo in Geneva

Jason Siu
AutoGuide.com

Sport Turismo is "a step forward into a new segment," says Porsche director of style. HANDOUT

Unveiled at the 2017 Geneva Motor Show, the 2018 Porsche Panamera Sport Turismo will initially launch in Europe on Oct. 7, 2017 before heading to other markets in early November. Five different versions of the Porsche Panamera Sport Turismo were displayed in Geneva: Panamera 4, Panamera 4S, Panamera 4S Diesel, Panamera 4 E-Hybrid and Panamera Turbo.

Based on the existing sedan, the Sport Turismo measures 5,049 mm long, 1,937 mm wide and 1,428 mm inches tall, while riding on a 2,950 mm wheelbase.

And just because it's a shooting brake doesn't mean it has to be boring to drive. Porsche tweaked the aerodynamics for the Sport Turismo model by having the roof extend into an adaptive spoiler at the top of the vehicle. The angle of the roof spoiler is set in three stages depending on driving conditions and selected vehicle settings. For example, at speeds up to 170 km/h, the aerodynamic guide element stays in its retracted position with an angle of minus seven degrees, helping reduce drag and optimizing fuel consumption. Go faster than 170 km/h and the spoiler automatically moves to the performance position with an angle of plus one degree, increasing driving stability and lateral dynamics.

When switching to Sport and Sport Plus driving modes, the roof spoiler automatically moves to the performance position at speeds of 90 km/h and higher.

The Porsche Panamera Sport Turismo is the first Panamera model to feature three rear seats. The two outside seats are individual seats, so it results in a 2+1 configuration in the rear. Of course the model can be ordered in a four-seat configuration with two electronically adjustable individual seats.

Making for easier entry and exit at the rear, the raised roof line of the Sport Turismo ensures greater head clearance. The backrests of the three rear seats can be folded down together or individually in a 40:20:40 split to increase cargo room.

"For Porsche, the Panamera Sport Turismo is a step forward into a new segment, but retains all of those values and attributes that are characteristic of Porsche," said Michael Mauer, director of style Porsche.

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Tesla fans to create commercials

COMPETITION

Homemade ads will be aired

Tesla has never advertised, instead relying on social media for marketing.

But a fifth-grader named Bria wanted to change that, writing a letter to CEO Elon Musk for a school project. "I have noticed that you do not advertise, but many people make homemade commercials for Tesla and some of them are very good, they look professional and they are entertaining," she wrote. "So, I think that you should run a competition on who can make the best homemade Tesla commercial and the winners will get their commercial aired."

Musk responded on Twitter, saying the company will do as she suggests. JASON SIU/AUTOGUIDE.COM

ALL PHOTOS HANDOUT; SCREENSHOT

DRIVING DREAMS

The smallest Rolls-Royce

Rolls-Royce hopes its latest creation will help put a smile on kids' faces. Made specifically for St. Richard's Hospital Pediatric Day Surgery Unit, the Rolls-Royce SRH will allow children awaiting surgery to drive themselves to the operating room, through corridors lined with "traffic signs." The hospital hopes the car and driving experience will help reduce child patient stress.

Developed by Rolls-Royce's Bespoke Manufacturing team, who dedicated over 400 hours of their own time, the SRH features a two-tone paint scheme of Andalusian White and Salamanca Blue, finished with a St. James Red coachline.

To keep things safe, it has a top speed of 16 km/h and power comes from a 24-volt gel battery. The speed setting is variable and can be set to 6 km/h.

JASON SIU/AUTOGUIDE.COM

HOLLYWOOD

Challenger's Fast 8 close-up

The Fate of the Furious has a new international trailer.

The eighth movie in a franchise no one believed would live past one will arrive in movie theaters April 14. Like other recent Fast and Furious movies, this one will head to several locations around the world including Cuba. The film crew has also been spotted in Ohio and Iceland.

The series isn't so much about modified cars and street racing as it was in the beginning but there's still a strong focus on the vehicles and The Fate of the Furious has no shortage of amazing machines. Expect to see plenty of modern exotics and supercars in the movie and a strong Dodge presence with the new Challenger SRT Demon.

JASON SIU/AUTOGUIDE.COM

metro SPORT

Two-time Cy Young Award winner and former Jays ace Roy Halladay was back with the Phillies Tuesday to serve as a spring training guest instructor

Team Canada gets clipped at the knee

BRIER

Defending champs lean on alternate with lead ailing

Manitoba skip Mike McEwen reacts to a shot during 10th-draw action against British Columbia on Tuesday. McEwen suffered his first defeat and is now 5-1. ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada lead Ben Hebert called his right knee injury a little tweak. Canada skip Kevin Koe called it a torn meniscus that would require surgery.

Canada alternate Scott Pfeifer can call it an opportunity.

With Hebert watching from the back bench and Pfeifer throwing first stones, Koe guided the defending champs to an 8-5 win over Nova Scotia's Jamie Murphy at the Tim Hortons Brier on Tuesday.

Ben Hebert GETTY IMAGES

A three-point eighth end helped Canada improve to 4-1 in round-robin play in St. John's N.L. Hebert is prepared to play through the pain as needed but may sit out if the injury flares up again.

"He's got a torn meniscus in his knee," Koe said. "He's going to need surgery after the season or maybe after the event depending how well we (do). So it's just trying to manage it. He'll still be playing some games but he's just not going to be able to play every game.

"We're going to need him at the end so the decision was made to give him a game off."

Hebert, who was walking with a slight limp after the morning draw, returned to the lineup for the evening game in which Canada lost 6-4 to Alberta's Brendan Bottcher.

> **I'll play on some painkillers. No sweat.**
> Ben Hebert

The 2010 Olympic champion downplayed the severity of the injury. "It's unfortunate but I'm fine," Hebert said.

"I'll play on some painkillers. No sweat. It's no big deal."

Manitoba's Mike McEwen remains at the top of the standings but gone is his unbeaten record. After topping New Brunswick's Mike Kennedy 9-7 in the morning, McEwen fell 7-5 to B.C.'s John Morris Tuesday evening. Manitoba is now 5-1.

Northern Ontario's Brad Jacobs defeated Murphy 8-3 in the afternoon to move into second place. He kept that ranking even after a 7-5 loss to Brad Gushue of Newfoundland and Labrador. Jacobs has a record of 5-2.

Quebec's Jean-Michel Menard, Koe and Gushue are next at 4-2 while Casey and Morris are 4-3. Bottcher improved to 3-4 and Murphy is alone in ninth place at 2-4. THE CANADIAN PRESS

BASEBALL CANADA IMPRESSIVE IN WBC TUNE-UP
Canada's Pete Orr scores a run against Blue Jays catcher Jarrod Saltalamacchia in an exhibition game on Tuesday in Dunedin, Fla. Justin Morneau hit a two-run single and Canada cruised to a 7-1 win. Canada plays its first World Baseball Classic game Thursday against the Dominican Republic in Miami. JOHN RAOUX/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

COURT

Alleged victim of ski coach: I had abortion

A former competitive Canadian skier says she had an abortion when she was about 15 after having unprotected sex with ex-coach Bertrand Charest numerous times.

Charest is on trial on 57 charges, including sexual assault and breach of trust in connection with the alleged abuse of 12 females between the ages of 12 and 19.

Charest, who is now 51, worked with Alpine Canada's women's development team between 1996 and 1998.

The witness, whose identity is protected by law, testified Charest first kissed her when she was 14 and they were on a ski trip in Italy.

She said the sex they began having when she was about 15 was consensual but that she realized later on Charest had been taking advantage of her.

In a calm and measured tone, she said Charest told her she was the love of his life and that they'd have a future together with a house, a farm and horses.

After she became pregnant, Charest picked her up from school and drove her to have the abortion, she told the court. THE CANADIAN PRESS

WITNESSES

The woman is the sixth alleged victim to testify at the trial, which began last week in St-Jerome, Que.

NHL

GMs opt to keep status quo in rules

They call it "Mike Murphy's law" around the NHL hockey operations department, and it means that something is bound to go wrong.

But while league officials are fully expecting at least one rule to cause consternation in the playoffs, general managers opted against recommending changes to it or anything else on the second day of meetings in Boca Raton, Fla.

"Like anything, it's better to move slow," Arizona Coyotes general manager John Chayka said.

100

There were 100 challenges on offsides this season going into Tuesday's games.

Among the issues of most intrigue was the offside element of the coach's challenge, which was introduced itself at the start of the 2015-16 season.

Colin Campbell, the NHL's senior executive vice-president of hockey operations, said it was almost certain to bubble into controversy during the post-season — Mike Murphy's law in other words. Some calls involving the offside have been almost too close to call and there's been murkiness on players raising one leg in the air to avoid drawing an offside charge.

Ultimately, no change was deemed necessary for now.

"It's almost like a hair — is it up or is it not up?" Campbell said. "It's all to get the call right. That's how this whole thing got started, just get the call right. We're trying to get the call right. Can you get it righter than right?" THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Sharpe on point in halfpipe
Canada's Cassie Sharpe ended the World Cup halfpipe skiing season with a gold medal on Tuesday, giving her momentum heading into next week's world championships.

Sharpe, from Calgary, won handily with a score of 90.80, finishing ahead of Japan's Ayana Onozuka (86.00) and France's Marie Martinod (84.00).

Martinod finished atop the overall World Cup halftime standings, while Sharpe was fourth. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Roughriders sign Winnipeg defensive lineman Steele
The Saskatchewan Roughriders signed Canadian defensive lineman Eddie Steele on Tuesday.

The six-foot-two, 280-pound Steele spent the last four seasons with Edmonton. Steele has 108 tackles and 13 sacks in 90 career regular-season games and helped the Eskimos win the 2015 Grey Cup.

Steele, a 28-year-old Winnipeg native, began his CFL career with the Hamilton Tiger-Cats. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bayern Munich midfielder Franck Ribery floats past Arsenal defender full back Hector Bellerin on Tuesday at the Emirates Stadium in London. CLIVE MASON/GETTY IMAGES

Five-star Munich make a mockery of Arsenal, again

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Boss Wenger under fire after Gunner's worst loss at Emirates

Bayern Munich completed Arsenal's Champions League humiliation on Tuesday by inflicting another 5-1 rout on the north London club, which collapsed to its heaviest loss at the Emirates Stadium after having captain Laurent Koscielny sent off.

A night that began with protests against manager Arsene Wenger ended with his side out of the competition in the round of 16 for the seventh consecutive season after the 10-2 aggregate loss.

Wenger deflected questions about his own future by reprimanding the referee for what the Frenchman called "unexplainable and scandalous" decisions.

And there was no sympathy from Bayern, with the five-time European champions joining in the derision by tweeting: "What time is it? Yep, it's ten to!"

The emphatic defeat in the first leg three weeks ago left Arsenal with an uphill task against the German champions, but Theo Walcott beat goalkeeper Manuel Neuer at his near post to give the hosts a glimmer of hope.

Nothing went Arsenal's way after that. Walcott was denied a potential penalty and then Koscielny was dismissed after the referee initially prepared to show the captain a yellow card for bringing down Robert Lewandowski ten minutes into the second half.

Arsenal didn't do itself any favours, going into freefall as Bayern tore Wenger's side apart with a clinical attacking masterclass. Arjen Robben netted after a poor clearance by goalkeeper David Ospina in the 68th minute, and Douglas Costa added another in the 78th before Arturo Vidal scored twice in the space of five minutes.

As Bayern marched into the quarterfinals for the sixth consecutive year, Arsenal cannot be certain it will even be back in the competition next season as it is currently out of the Premier League's top four. There's also uncertainty over the future, with Wenger out of contract at the end of the season. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

REAL EASILY PROGRESS IN NAPLES

Real Madrid survived an early scare to win 3-1 at Napoli on Tuesday and reach the Champions League quarterfinals for a seventh successive time.

Trailing 3-1 from the first leg, Dries Mertens gave Napoli hope with a 24th-minute strike but Madrid hit back through a Sergio Ramos header. Mertens then scored an own goal to effectively end the contest. Alvaro Morata wrapped up the 6-2 win on aggregate with a late tap in. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

Leafs clip Red Wings to snap 5-game skid

James van Riemsdyk broke out of a scoring slump, and the Toronto Maple Leafs snapped a five-game losing streak with a 3-2 victory against the Detroit Red Wings on Tuesday.

Alexey Marchenko and Nazem Kadri also scored for the Maple Leafs (28-22-14), who were 0-2-3 in their previous five outings. Rookie Mitch Marner and Tyler Bozak each had two assists.

Gustav Nyquist struck twice for the Red Wings (25-27-11), while Henrik Zetterberg extended his point streak to seven games with an assist on both goals. Frederik Andersen made 22 saves. THE CANADIAN PRESS

SUNDAY InToronto

3	2
LEAFS	RED WINGS

IN BRIEF

Doubts over Fury's return

The body that runs British boxing cast doubt on Tyson Fury's announcement that he is close to returning to the ring, saying Tuesday the former world heavyweight champion's license remains suspended and that he has an upcoming anti-doping hearing.

Fury tweeted on Monday that he was "working on an opponent" and gave a date of May 13 for his return. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lakers appoint agent Pelinka as general manager

Longtime agent Rob Pelinka has been named the Los Angeles Lakers' new general manager.

Pelinka got the job shortly after Lakers owner Jeanie Buss fired GM Mitch Kupchak and her brother, Jim, as the Lakers' top basketball executives last month. The team waited to announce the hiring until Pelinka complied with NBA conflicts of interest rules. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

Dallas' Nowitzki joins club 30,000

Dirk Nowitzki has become the sixth NBA player and first international player to score 30,000 points.

The Dallas superstar got 18 of the 20 points he needed in the first quarter against the Los Angeles Lakers on Tuesday night, and hit the milestone on a fadeaway jumper with 10:58 left in the second quarter. He added a three-pointer for 23 points in the first 14 minutes before the game was stopped. The seven-foot German, in his 19th season, is the third to score at least 30,000 points with one team. The others are Karl Malone (Utah) and Kobe Bryant (Lakers).

The 30,000 list includes four Hall of Famers in career leader Kareem Abdul-Jabbar (38,387 points), Malone, Michael Jordan and Wilt Chamberlain, and a future one in Bryant, who is third. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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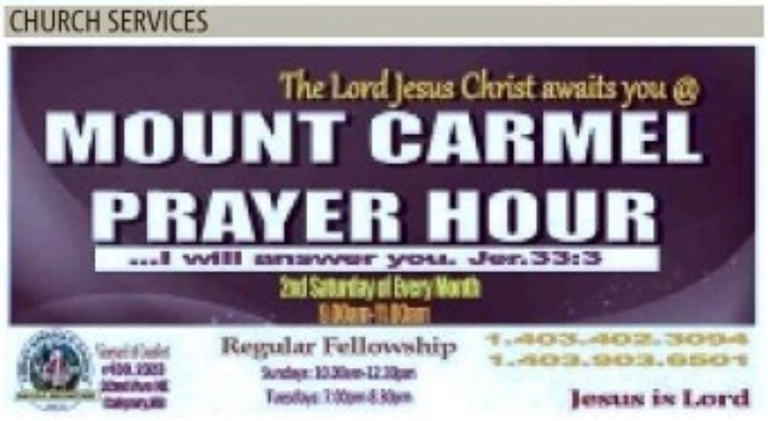

MAKE IT TONIGHT

Fast Vegetarian Skillet Lasagna

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Achieve maximum comfort food satisfaction with minimal mess when you whip up this one-pan dinner.

Ready in 20 minutes
Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 10 minutes
Serves 6

Ingredients
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 onion, diced
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 medium zucchini, diced
- 1 tsp dried oregano
- salt and pepper
- 6 to 8 mushrooms, sliced
- 1 x 19 oz can of tomatoes
- 1 cup water
- 8 oz (250 grams) of dried pasta like farfalle
- 1 cup grated mozzarella
- 1 cup ricotta
- small handful of fresh basil

Directions

1. Warm up olive oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add onions and garlic and allow to soften, about 3 minutes. Toss in zucchini, mushrooms and oregano. Stir occasionally until vegetables start to soften. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

2. Add tomatoes and break with the back of a spoon. Pour in water. Stir and bring to a simmer.

3. Pour pasta into the sauce and make sure it is submerged. Allow to simmer 15 minutes, stirring so it doesn't stick to the bottom.

4. When pasta is just about cooked, stir in mozzarella. Spoon ricotta over top of the dish. Cover the skillet for about 3 minutes to allow the cheese to warm through and soften. Sprinkle fresh basil before serving.

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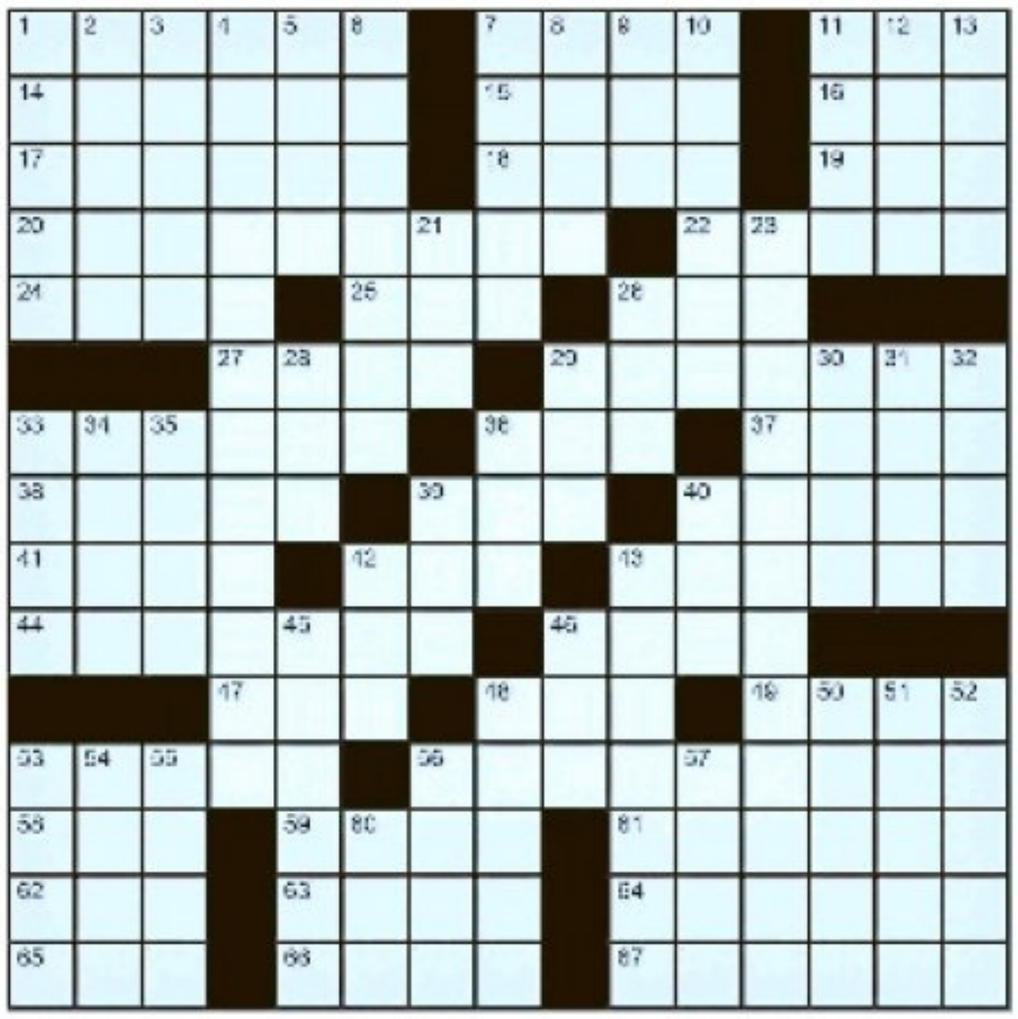
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Cucumber/lettuce/tomatoes concoctions
7. Member of Mary's flock
11. Intl. clock standard
14. Turn teary: 2 wds.
15. Corn lily
16. Impatient shout!
17. Shakespeare: Henry V character married to the King of France
18. Plug
19. Bakery bread
20. "_ When We Touch" by Toronto-born singer Dan Hill
22. Flower
24. Box
25. Ford, for one
26. Sainte-_ (Quebec City sector)
27. US Congressman Mr. Gowdy
29. Family tree member
33. Mistake/slip, in Latin
36. Don't hire a pro, e.g.
37. Sort of word
38. Decrease
39. Peat _
40. Newfoundland: Norway-like feature in Gros Morne National Park
41. "Perry Mason" star Raymond
42. Pottery creation
43. Out of sorts
44. Highlights in hair
46. Second-year student [abbr.]
47. Chicago trains
48. Poetically distant
49. Beaks
53. "Because the Night" songstress Ms. Smith
56. Wonderful
58. Cowboy's command!
59. Chew away
61. Consumption
62. Flora's mother in "The Piano" (1993)
63. Musical instrument, French _
64. Shut
65. Mr. Savalas, for short
66. 2, 2, 2, 2, 2
67. Most reasoned

DOWN
1. The _ Alps
2. Fabled name
3. Animal of The Andes
4. Thoroughfare in downtown Ottawa: 2 wds.
5. Two singers/One song
6. Edits the film in a way
7. 'In' indefinitely inmate
8. Foe of the Allies in World War II
9. Rich money amt.
10. Rocky _ (Sylvester Stallone role)
11. Pita serving of #7-Across
12. Hellmann's, e.g.
13. "Gloria" band from Belfast
21. British Prime Minister, Theresa _
23. For Better or For Worse cartoonist: 2 wds.
26. Stir-_
28. Ms. McClanahan
29. Actor Mr. Young
30. Jim Morrison, for one
31. Knit one _ two...
32. Raggedy Ann's pal
33. Research rooms, e.g.
34. Edge
35. Catherine _ (Wife of Henry VIII)
36. Lassie, for one
39. "_ Stop" by The Hollies
40. Fashionable dresser
42. Writer Ms. Rowling's
43. _ Pilate, "Jesus Christ Superstar" (1973) role
45. Dismount
46. Little Ricky, to Lucy
48. Dullsville declarations
50. Stage: French
51. Cycles
52. Fragrance
53. Excellent, in slang
54. _-de-camp
55. Greenish-blue
56. Betting card game
57. "_ and the King" (1999)
60. Not later

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Be patient with family members today to avoid squabbles and arguments. (This is not a good way to start your day — or anyone else's.) Be chill.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
If you can get past some tension this morning, the rest of the day will be quiet and comforting. In fact, you will want to cocoon at home if you can.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Money disputes or an argument about something you own might occur this morning. Try to move past it so that you can enjoy a busy day full of errands and fun.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
People are touchy this morning. Give them a wide berth. Later in the day, you will be focused on money and cash flow. Ka-ching.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
This morning it's easy to be grumpy. However, soon the Moon moves into your sign, which gives you an advantage over everyone else. Enjoy your good fortune.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Avoid morning arguments with a female acquaintance. Later in the day, do some research or find some privacy, and enjoy being on your own.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You like to keep the peace. Therefore, avoid arguments in the morning, because the rest of the day is warm and friendly.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Steer clear of sensitive subjects like religion, politics and racial issues this morning. Later in the day, bosses, parents and VIPs will talk about you for some reason.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Disputes about shared property might arise this morning. Let these go, because what you really want to do is get out and have a change of scenery today. Do something different.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Be patient with partners and close friends this morning to avoid arguments. Later today, you might ponder how your values are different from the values of others.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You have to go more than halfway when dealing with others today because the Moon is opposite your sign. This simply requires a little patience, tolerance and cooperation.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Avoid disputes at work this morning. You don't need this! Later today, you will play and schmooze with others, as well as delight in sports or playful activities with children.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

	5	9			1	4	2	7
3			5		8			9
1			7					5
9			3					8
	2	4	8				5	
			1				4	
			2			1		
			9			7		
	6	8				5		

YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

for more fun and games go to metronews.ca/games

5	3	7	1	9	4	8	2	6
1	4	2	7	6	8	3	9	5
8	6	9	2	3	5	4	7	1
9	2	3	8	5	1	6	4	7
7	5	4	3	2	6	1	8	9
6	1	8	9	4	7	5	3	2
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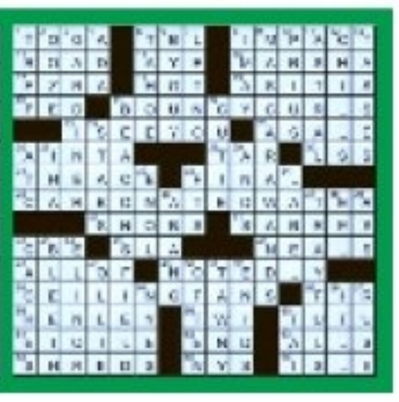

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NO RAIN CHECKS!

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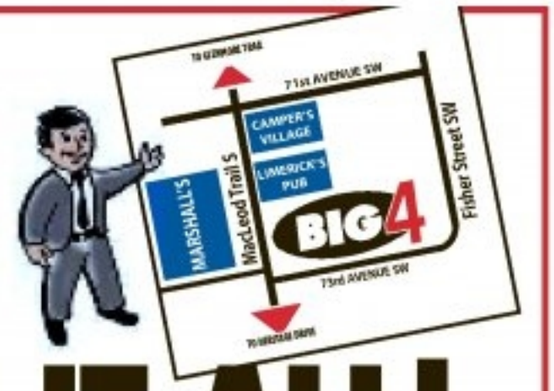

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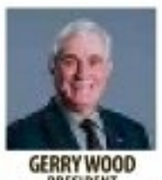

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Packing a really big punch in a

TRICO HOMES

More spacious than the size indicates with large, ample windows

Kathy McCormick

It's all in the details.

Trico Homes' latest single-family show home in Redstone packs a wallop, even though it's a modest 1,730 square feet. Right from the street, you can see the attention to the smallest of features that sets it apart and adds to the upscale appeal.

Neat, clean lines highlight the elevation that has just enough detail to make it stand out. Look for barn-red siding with one panel of shake detail in light brown topped with crisp, white trim, rough rock along the bottom, and a covered porch.

Inside, the home appears much more spacious than the size indicates with wide-open appeal from front to back and ample, large windows to keep the area bright and appealing.

A small entryway allows for room to settle in or leave without spilling into the living area and the stairway to the upper level hugs one wall to maximize space. A small niche at the side of the staircase provides a chance to welcome visitors.

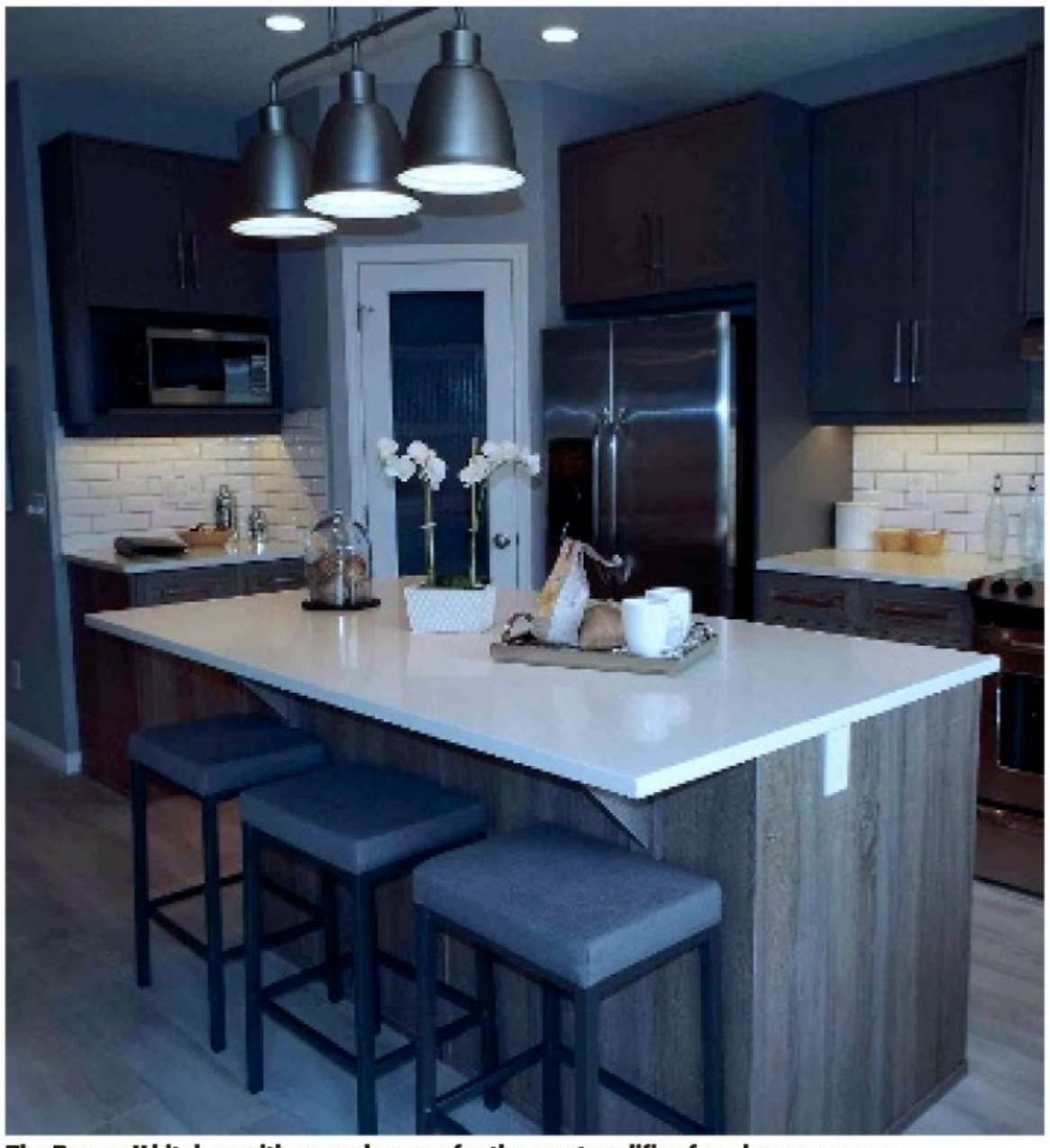
The living and dining room are adjoining and not only long, but wide as well, adding to the spacious appeal. A fireplace on the staircase wall provides that warm touch that's so welcome, especially in the grueling winters that Calgary can have.

Two long and narrow rectangular windows — one in the living room and one in the dining area — are far up on the outside wall adjacent to the neighbour's house. Perfect for providing light and interest without sacrificing privacy.

Beside the fireplace, two steps lead to the half bath, then down to the basement. It's another nice touch of privacy mixed with convenience. The half bath is close, but not obtrusive.

The kitchen takes up the back third of the main floor and it's a generous size with ample cupboards, even for the most prolific of cooks. It includes a corner pantry and large, rectangular island with a flush eating bar along the outside edge. Grey cupboards on top and antiqued, wood-stained cupboards on bottom accent the bright white subway-style glossy tile backsplash and counters. The two sinks are well placed under an extra-large window looking out to the backyard and detached, double garage.

"The home is in Redstone, the northeast neighbourhood ... that has become one of the most popular new communities in the city



The Rowan II kitchen with enough space for the most prolific of cooks. CONTRIBUTED

From the kitchen, a small hall leads to the back foyer, where more windows, including a door with large amounts of glass leading to the deck out back, keep the area bright and inviting. The area includes a large walk-in closet and a bench.

Upstairs, the master bedroom is a good size with a walk-in closet and a full ensuite with double sinks in the long vanity and a walk-in shower with decorative tile to

Living room. CONTRIBUTED

modest-sized home

Large open dining area. CONTRIBUTED

the ceiling.

The two extra bedrooms are a good size and a loft that is open to the stairs at the front of the home is cosy enough for a small sitting area or home office.

A hall closet opens to the side-by-side washer and dryer.

The home is in Redstone, the northeast neighbourhood built by Qualico that has become one of the most popular new communities in the city since it was first opened. The proximity to services, shops and amenities, the close Stoney Trail and the many new businesses in the area have all been draws.

IN SHORT

Builder: Trico Homes
Developer: Qualico
Area: Redstone in the northeast
Model: The Rowan II, a 1,730-square-foot two-storey
Price: Base price of the home with lot and GST is $408,000. The show home has a few extras, such as a fireplace and optional master ensuite layout.
Hours: Open from 2 to 8 p.m. Monday to Thursday and noon to 5 p.m. weekends and holidays.
Directions: Take Deerfoot Trail north to Country Hills Blvd., turn east to Metis Trail, turn north, then right at 128 Ave., left at Redstone Street and first right at the traffic circle. Follow to Red Embers Row NE.

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IMMEDIATE POSSESSION

- 3 Bedrooms, 2.5 Bathrooms
- Main Floor Laundry & Mud Room
- Spacious Master Suite with Retreat, Walk-in Closet & 5 pc Ensuite
- Stainless Steel Appliance Package
- Quartz Countertops in Kitchen, Main Bath & Ensuite
- LVP & Tile Flooring

Bowen

323 LEGACY HEIGHTS SE

$549,900 | Incl. house, lot + gst

2335 sq. ft. Front Garage

MARCH POSSESSION

- 3 Bedrooms, 2.5 Bathrooms
- Main Floor Den
- 2nd Floor Laundry Room
- Walkthrough Pantry
- Spacious Master Suite with Walk-in Closet & 5 pc Ensuite
- Stainless Steel Appliance Package
- Granite Countertops in Kitchen, Main Bath & Ensuite
- LVP & & Tile Flooring

Conrad 2

138 LEGACY LANDING SE

$529,900 | Incl. house, lot + gst

2085 sq. ft. Front Garage

MAY POSSESSION

- 3 Bedrooms, 2.5 Bathrooms
- Main Floor Box Office
- Main Floor Laundry & Mud Room
- Tile Fireplace in Great Room
- Spacious Master Suite with Retreat, Walk-in Closet & 5 pc Ensuite
- Stainless Steel Appliance Package
- Quartz Countertops in Kitchen, Main Bath & Ensuite
- LVP & Tile Flooring

Van Horne

20 LEGACY COURT SE

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The latest development from Rockwood Custom Homes will be on land just west of cSPACE — the arts and cultural hub. CONTRIBUTED

Achieving their city-building vision

ROCKWOOD

Finding the right space was key to the new community

Kathy McCormick

It's all about the vision — and the right vision has put Rockwood Custom Homes in a great place.

The builder's latest development will be on land just west of cSPACE, the arts and cultural hub located in the historic King Edward sandstone school in the community of South Calgary.

"It took over 18 months of searching across Canada for the right partner to help us achieve our broader city-building vision," said Reid Henry, president and CEO of cSPACE when he announced the decision to choose Rockwood.

cSPACE is a social enterprise dedicated to supporting communities of artists, non-profits and entrepreneurs working in the creative and culture sectors.

"My board and I are thrilled about where we have landed with our Calgary-based community builder who is visionary, talented and inspiring."

The president of Rockwood Custom Homes is excited about the decision.

"We are a high-end, legacy-style of builder and it is such an historic location, we are honoured to be able to build The Residences of King Edward amidst a master-planned, arts-based development in the inner city," says Allison Grafton.

And The Residences of King Edward has already hit the right note with consumers as well. With just 19 units priced from $880,000 to $2.65 million, and an economy brought to its knees by the oil and gas downturn, The Residences of King Edward has 11 sales already.

Construction is expected to start in May with the first move-ins anticipated for July 2019.

Located in Calgary South just west of 14th St SW at 30th Avenue, "it really is an incredible location," says Grafton. "It has what I call 'big sky.' It's quite high up on the hill with incredible views of the city centre, mountains or adjacent park, depending on the unit. It's amazing for an inner-city development."

That, in turn, was a factor in the plan for the development of the complex. "We made a clear decision not to add many amenities to the building so condo fees wouldn't be too high — and because of the proximity to cSpace and the downtown."

Some expected luxury appointments are included to make living easy. A 'virtual' concierge is available on a 'pay-as-you-go' basis, a dog wash in the secured, underground garage, individual, locked storage areas, and a bike and ski tune-up area are just some of those.

The individual units range from 1,400 square feet to 3,600 square feet — and are all built with high-end finishes and detail. "Every unit is treated as a complete custom home so we're able to customize to suite every client's dream."

The majority of the units are two- or three-bedroom plans with two and a half to three and a half bathrooms. Some units come with an office or den.

The exterior of the building will be sleek and modern with ample glass, but will include sandstone accents to blend with the historic school next door.

IN SHORT

Builder/developer: Rockwood Custom Homes
Development: The Residences of King Edward
Description: A 19-unit luxury condominium development adjacent to cSPACE, the new arts and culture hub in the historical King Edward School at 1720 30 Ave. SW.
Units: Range in size from 1,400 square feet to 3,600 square feet
Prices: From $880,000 to $2.65 million plus GST
Information: Visit rockwoodcustomhomes.com

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Danielle Paul, centre, of interior design firm Designers Edge, teaches homebuyers how to incorporate their own furniture into the look and feel of their new home. CONTRIBUTED

Homeowners schooled on design

MORRISON HOMES

Workshop series helps buyers style new home

Miles Durrie

Decisions, decisions and more decisions. Sometimes it seems like that's most of what buying a new home is about.

Once you've made the big decision to purchase a home, it's time to confront a whole range of choices, from plans and locations to flooring, countertops, fixtures and cabinets. It can be bewildering, and that's why Morrison Homes decided last fall to start its free Home School workshop series.

"It was an initiative to get people more excited and informed about the home-buying process," says Carole Saguez, manager of Morrison's selection studio.

The series began with Building 101, focusing on the design and construction process, building codes and architectural controls.

"Then we did two on staging and preparing a home for sale," Saguez says.

Tips included creating a more spacious feel by making sure closets and cupboards aren't full, and repainting strong wall colours to more neutral hues.

"Treat your home like a show home when you put it on the market."

Next, Danielle Paul of interior design firm Designers Edge presented sessions to help people incorporate their existing furniture into the look and feel of their new homes.

"She walked people through a show home and showed them that things are themed, but we're no longer in an era of 'matchy-matchy'," Saguez says.

This year, the workshops have moved into Morrison's 5,000-square-foot selection studio, where the focus is on trends and interior selections.

"Our job is not to tell people what they should like, but just to keep everything working together. They'll see that there's something for everyone, and something at every price level."

The advent of online tools like Pinterest and Houzz has made it easier than ever for people to define their style, even if they don't know exactly how to describe it in words, Saguez says. "Just show us."

The Home School workshops give plenty of time for questions, discussions and a hands-on look at the various interior choices.

"We give them all these things to look at. I'll speak for about 25 minutes, then say 'Okay, now go look around,'" Saguez says, adding that people always have questions about the differences between materials in terms of quality, durability and price.

Everyone is welcome to attend the workshops, whether they're actively in the market for a home or are just thinking about it. "We just feel that an educated buyer is better for the whole industry."

The next Home School workshops take place March 18 and April 29 at Morrison Homes' selection studio, 11158 42nd St. S.E., starting at 10 a.m.

REGISTER

For more information and to register, visit info.morrisonhomes.ca/homeschoolyyc.

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Unwind in your redesigned lavatory

Of all the rooms in your home, the bathroom should be the silence-please, "ahhh" oasis. A great bathroom is no longer simply utilitarian; they have evolved into a focal point of home design. People want spa-like personal retreats. Must-haves include soaker tubs, dual sinks or vanities and beautiful finishings. Accessorizing your retreat is the fun part. Here are some great finds to make your bathroom "ahhh"-mazing

Karen Durrie

Lock it up

Retreat though it may be, the bathroom can also contain some items you'll want to lock up for safe keeping, especially if you have children. Think medications, essential oils, razors — anything that could potentially harm little ones. Ikea's Gunnern cabinet is a lockable solution for peace of mind. The wall-mounted shelves have lipped edges to prevent contents from sliding out and can be mounted to open to the right or left. Designs were inspired by vintage English train stations and factories. Comes in red embossed with a traditional "first aid" cross, or a mirrored white version, for $33.

Tune in

Whether you like quiet background music or want to go full Ferris Bueller singing in the shower, music is a nice-to-have in your retreat. A Bluetooth shower speaker avoids expensive accidents to your devices. Keep your mobile tablet or phone safe and play music or make hands-free calls using the water resistant speaker. The well-rated TaoTronics portable, wireless speaker suctions to surfaces, and allows up to six hours of audio playback. Compatible with iPhone, iPad, Android, tablets, and other Bluetooth-enabled devices. $24.99 on Amazon.ca

Store it all

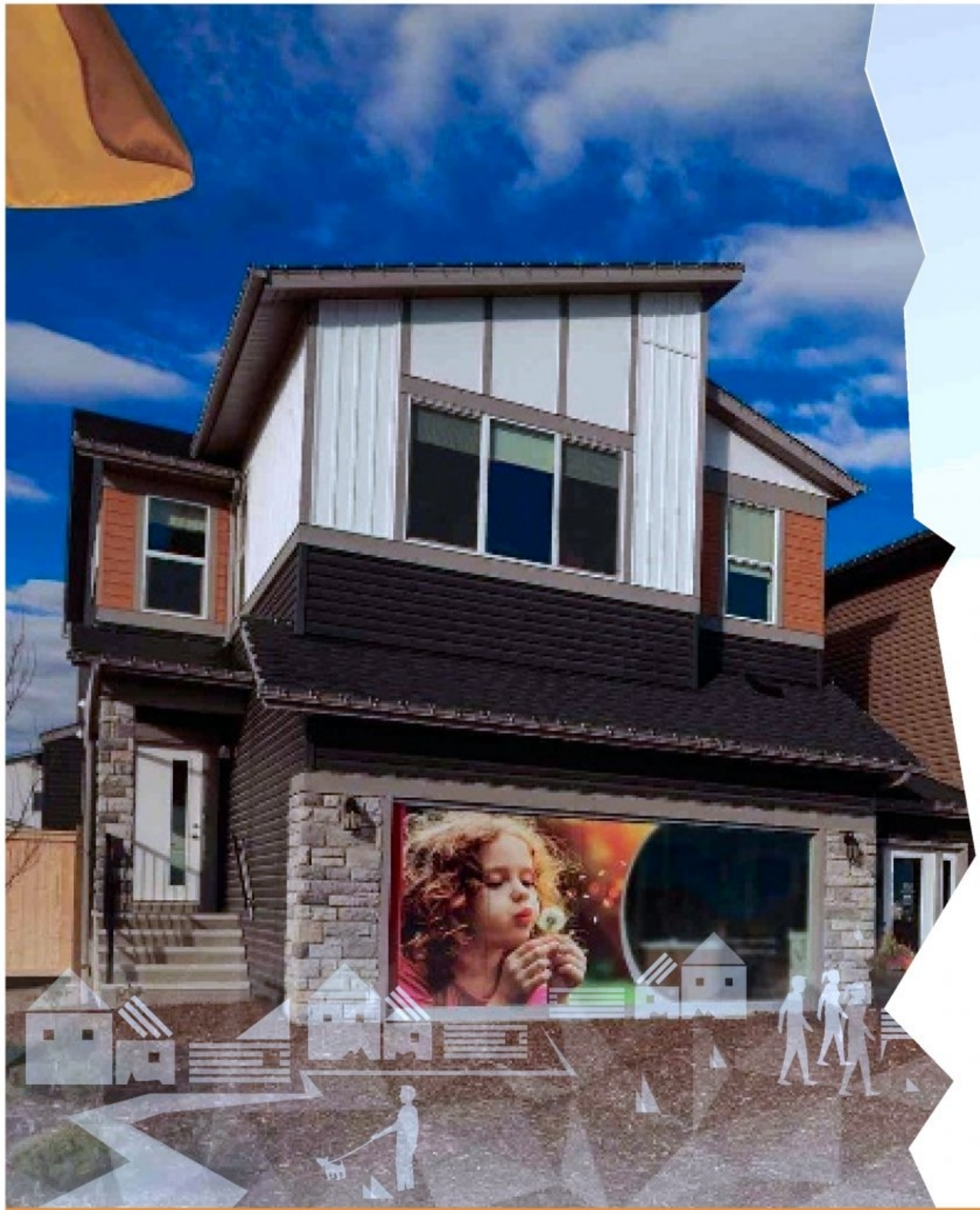
Need a bit of extra space to store your luxury bubble baths and fluffy towels? A freestanding linen cabinet is a versatile solution, and they come in plenty of different styles and colours to fit seamlessly into your decor. The Sutton linen cabinet is a sleek modern choice, with aluminum feet and handles, two doors, with an oval mirror tucked inside, and adjustable shelves. $399 at Rona.

Lay back and relax

Book and a glass of wine in the tub? Maybe even a little cheese plate? Don't mind if I do! This terrific water-resistant teak bathtub caddy rests on the tub ledge to put it all at your fingertips, with an adjustable book holder, slot for wineglass or coffee mug, and notches for razor or brushes. It adjusts to fit tubs up to 33 inches wide. $49.99 at Bed Bath & Beyond.

Sharp idea

Funk (or change) up your bathroom space with an interesting, statement-making shower curtain. Unique selections abound in lifestyle brand Anthropologie's stores and catalogue. With patterns to suit any decor, from traditional to whimsical, you'll find everything from a classic damask pattern to a giant, retro-style pink flamingo print. Check out this fun, vintage-style golden octopus curtain, an online exclusive for $148 on anthropologie.com.



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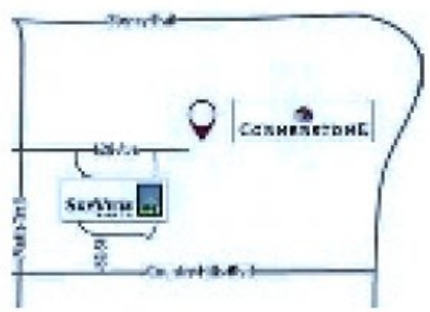

Walton

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Located at the far south end of the city, Deer Creek Estates is comprised of 40 estate-sized acreages set within 320 acres of rolling hills with both city and mountain views. CONTRIBUTED

Enjoy more space with acreage living

MASTER HOMEBUILDERS

Affordable country living with easy access to city

Karen Durrie

Some people dream of acreage ownership — space to breathe fresh air, a place for pets to roam, where kids can build forts in the "back 90," and neighbours aren't butted up against your backyard.

There are a number of developments selling around Calgary that afford the opportunity to live the acreage lifestyle within easy access of the city and all its amenities.

The advantages of acreage living are myriad, says Mark Kwasnicki, owner of McKinley Masters homebuilders and president of the development group behind a number of acreage communities in Bearspaw, Springbank and Elbow Valley.

"Lot prices are much cheaper (compared to the city) for the size of lot you can get. You can build so many more varieties of homes, as there is not restriction to lot size and especially garage sizes — an acreage provides room for extra vehicles."

Kwasnicki's latest development is Silverhorn, a 93-hectare luxury acreage community in Bearspaw located on Range Road 262 in between Bearspaw and Lochend Road.

Phase I of the development is underway, with 35 lots ranging from 1.5 to two acres, priced between $485,000 and $693,000. Phase II will add another 43 lots, and Phase III a final 13.

Custom builders for Silverhorn homes, which feature traditional and mountain contemporary architecture, include McKinley Masters, Maillot Homes, Oakmont Custom Builders and Westridge Fine Homes.

The area is rife with rolling hills and thickets of trees, more than seven kilometres of walking trails, and what Kwasnicki calls "the best-in-class conservation plan in Alberta," with 50 per cent of the land to remain untouched by development.

It's the only acreage community at present that features high-speed fibre optic connection, treated piped water and a state-of-the-art septic system.

> **Lot prices are much cheaper (compared to the city) for the size of lot you can get.**
> Mark Kwasnicki

Interest in Silverhorn has seen a wide demographic, from young families to empty nesters and retired people, Kwasnicki says.

There are three luxury showhomes to view in the area, along with two spec houses, with construction underway on a number of lot purchasers' custom homes.

At the opposite end of Calgary, more acreage development is taking shape.

Deer Creek Estates, Harmony Ridge and Rocky Mountain View Estates are located at the far south end of the city, in the Okotoks/De Winton area, a minute's drive from Deerfoot Trail and six minutes from the city limits.

Deer Creek Estates is comprised of 40 estate-sized acreages averaging 2-4 acres each, set within 320 acres of rolling, treed hills with city and mountain views, and many creek-backed lots. Unlike some acreage developments, horses are allowed in the timber-rail fenced, stone-accented community, which lends a definitive country-living flavour to the area.

Buyers receive fully serviced lots, and can bring their own builders to build within the strict architectural controls set out by Deer Creek Land Developments Inc. These include wood-sized homes with a percentage of rock or brick on the facade, roof material controls, and architecturally compatible outbuildings.

"The home owner is welcome to design any style of home as long as it meets our controls. You can't store all your friends' motorhomes and junk. You can, however, have your own," says Gary Edwards, president of Deer Creek Developments.

Harmony Ridge overlooks Deer Creek Estates, and consists of nine luxury-sized lots on 40 acres.

Besides being close to the city, Deer Creek and Harmony Ridge are close to Norris Coulee, the company's first acreage development, which has two schools and a rec centre.

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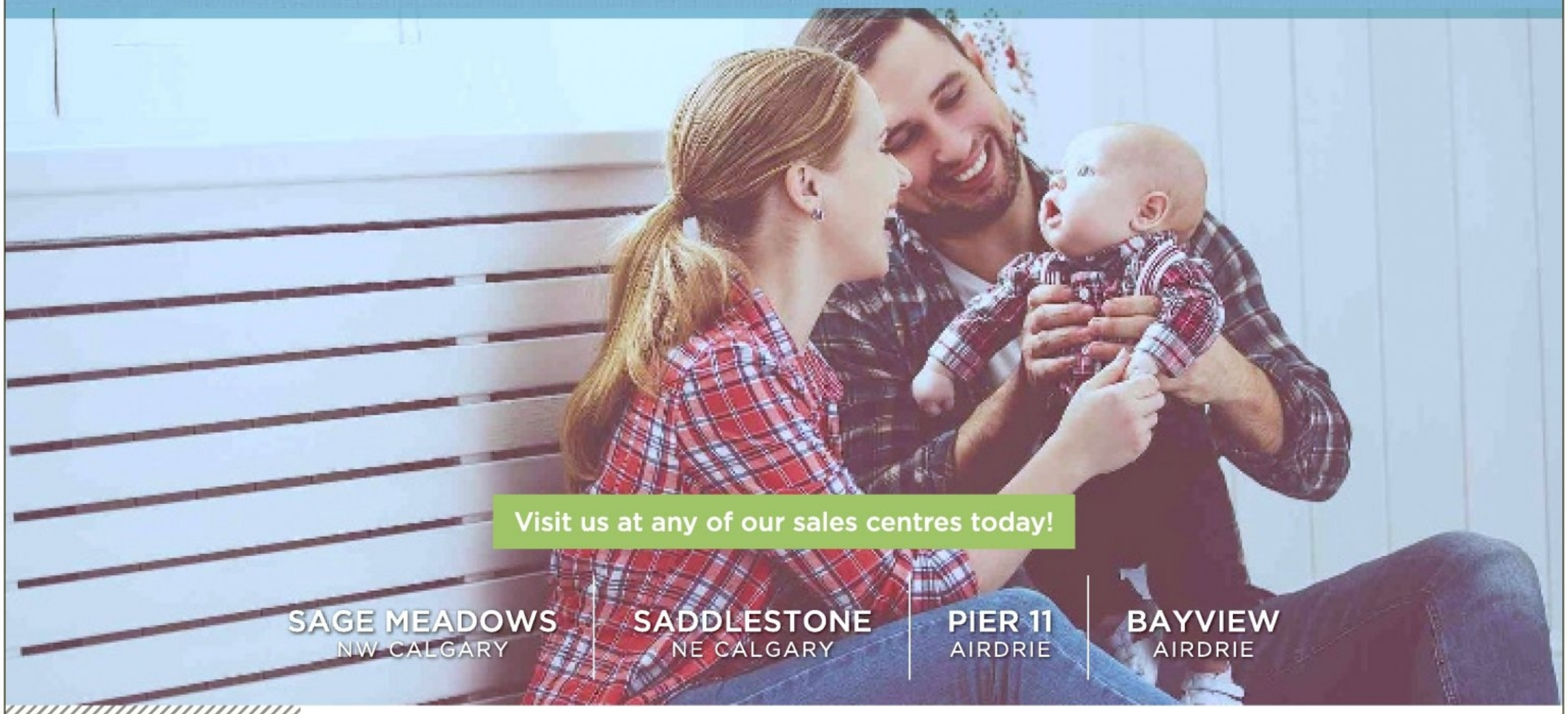

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Assisting home buyers a labour of love for Bikaw

SHANE HOMES

Homeowners get the most out of their purchase

Miles Durrie

For Suzie Bikaw, turning homeowners' questions and problems into answers and solutions is all in a day's work — and it's a labour of love.

"I like helping people; it's what I do every day and it's what makes my job satisfying," says Bikaw, home service coordinator for Shane Homes. "On a daily basis, if I've made someone happy I feel like I've done my job."

Working with a team of service technicians, a service manager and another coordinator, Bikaw deploys whatever resources are necessary to help buyers of Shane homes get the most out of their purchases.

Some of what she and her team deal with involves warranty work, repairs and maintenance, including three-month and one-year inspections. But with 20 years of industry experience — 14 of them with Shane — Bikaw can often address problems with a few questions and an explanation rather than needing to send a technician out.

"When I can resolve someone's issue over the phone, that feels good." Sometimes all it takes is a reminder of how the heating system works, or some other operational aspect of the home.

"When we turn over a house, we do a customer orientation and let them know all the details. But they are, understandably, really excited and so sometimes they don't absorb it all," she says.

Bikaw deals with anywhere from around 20 to 60 customers in a typical day, and says on average at least 80 per cent of their issues can be resolved very quickly. "That's one of the things we pride ourselves in."

Born and raised in Trinidad, Bikaw came to Calgary in 1991 to attend Mount Royal University on a scholarship. There she studied business management before entering the homebuilding industry, working first as a customer liaison then moving into her current role.

She has continued to develop her industry skills and knowledge by taking numerous courses from the Professional Home Builders Institute. But what she treasures most is the opportunity to connect with people by solving problems and putting their minds at ease.

"I like a positive outcome where a customer is happy. You create lasting relationships with them and it feels really good," she says. "I love everything about my job, I'm happy where I am and I love what I do."

Part of that includes working with a supportive team, and Bikaw couldn't be more enthusiastic about her colleagues at Shane Homes.

"There are so many people you build long-lasting friendships with at work. Everything evolves and the company has matured, but friends still endure."

> **I like a positive outcome where a customer is happy. You create lasting relationships with them and it feels really good.**
> Suzie Bikaw, home service coordinator

Suzie Bikaw, home service coordinator for Shane Homes, works with service technicians, a service manager and another coordinator to resolve any issues with warranty work, repairs or maintenance. CONTRIBUTED

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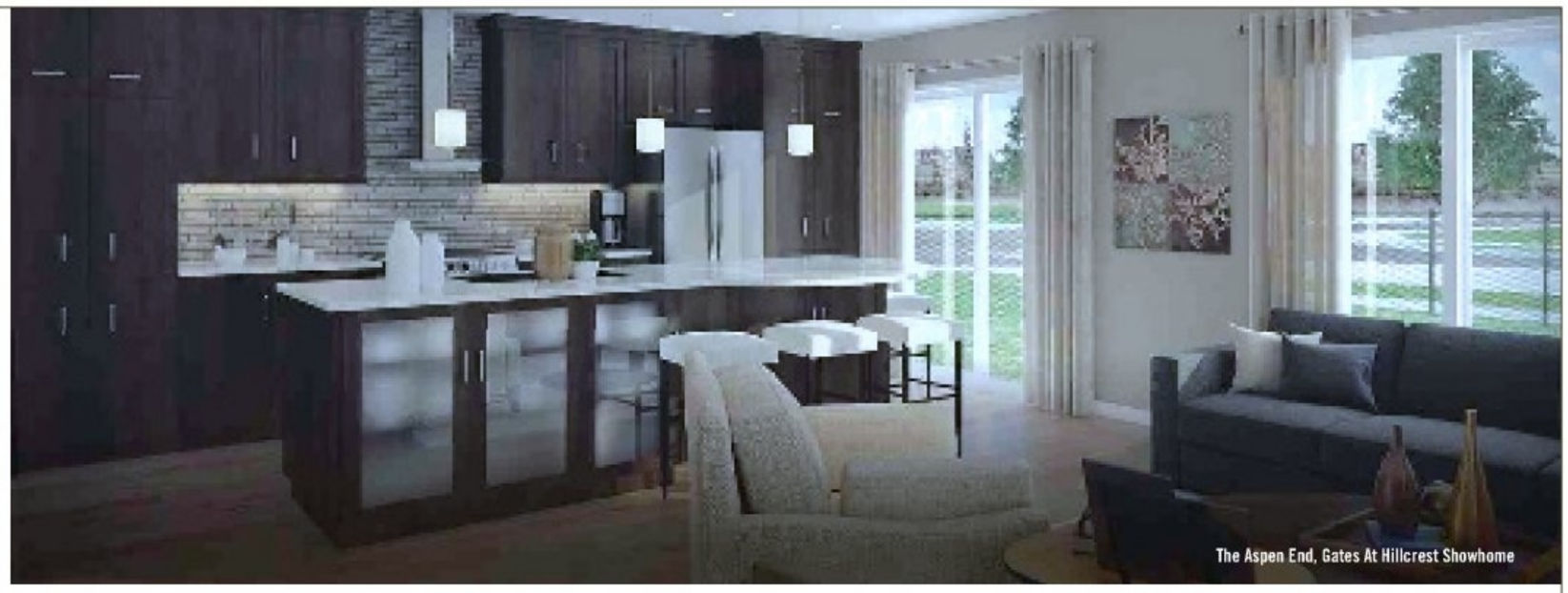
The Aspen End, Gates At Hillcrest Showhome

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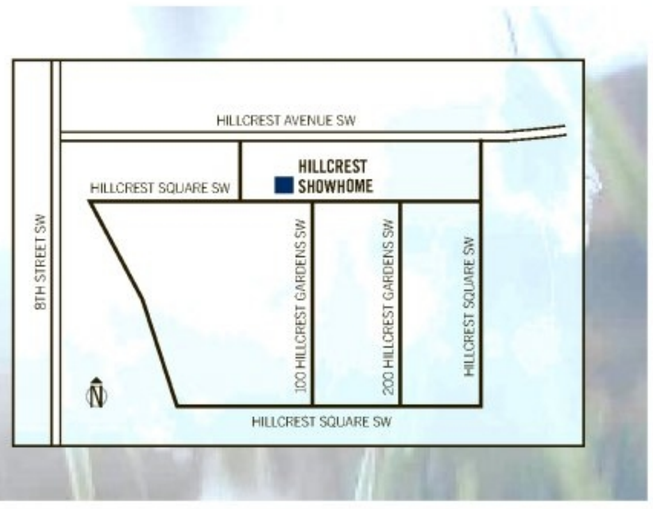

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